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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the continued operation of public radio station KRNM in the CNMI?

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INSIDE

NIU Memorial

Five bouquets of red and white flowers were placed on the stage for the memorial at the Northern Illinois University.

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Military Support

Military and police generals pledged their support for the embattled Philippine president Monday.

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While the quirky American Coens led the night, the Oscars had a strong international flavor.

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By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

For many years now, patients and their families have been taking hospital property home like freebies and not returning them, costing the hospital a lot of money to replace basic equipment like wheelchairs, blankets, and hospital gowns.

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Department of Corrections officers shield Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura from being swarmed by Japanese and local media as he exits the courtroom of the CNMI Superior Court in Susupe yesterday afternoon.

No bail for Japanese businessman

AGO files a fugitive from justice charge

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

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The Superior Court yesterday set no bail for Kazuyoshi Miura, a 60-year-old Japanese businessman who was arrested Friday at the Saipan international airport for the murder of his wife in Los Angeles 27 years ago.

Miura was brought to the Superior Court yesterday after the Attorney General's Office filed an information charging Miura with one count of fugitive from justice.

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Media frenzy at Miura bail appearance

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

About 50 Japanese journalists, mostly from TV stations in Tokyo, flocked to the Superior Court in Susupe yesterday to cover the bail hearing of murder sus-

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Japanese media patiently wait for Kazuyoshi Miura outside the Department of Corrections building in Susupe.

Local

'Extend private land leases to 75 years'

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The governor's Strategic Economic Development Council has thrown its support behind a renewed effort to extend the permissible term for private lands leases in the Commonwealth from 55 years to 75 years.

SEDC described the legislative initiative as "perhaps the most important policy change needed for tourism enhancement."

The organization, which is made up of government and business leaders, noted that longer lease terms would allow the CNMI to compete for investments with neighboring jurisdictions.

Foreign nationals can own land fee simple in Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland. Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia offer 99-year leases for both public and private lands.

Sponsored by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, House Legislative Initiative 16-4 requires approval by three-fourths of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. After that, the proposed constitutional amendment must be certified by the Commonwealth Election Commission and placed on the ballot at a special election set for April 19, 2008. If approved by majority of voters, new leases on private lands will be extended to 75 years, while existing leasehold agreements may be renegotiated for a new lease term of up to 75 years.

Bob Jones, a respected businessman with corporate headquarters in Guam and Saipan and the most senior member of SEDC, was excited to hear of the proposal.

"The SEDC and the majority, if not all, of the entire business community in the CNMI and the region welcome this most critical proposal from the CNMI Legislature. We have for the longest time been recommending and pushing hard for this needed policy change," he said.

SEDC pointed out that it had been calling for longer-term private land leases for over five years. But its efforts had failed repeatedly because of politics.

"Let's work together to move the economy forward. We can do it, but we must talk to one another and work for the people in the CNMI rather than for political gain," Jones said.

He also said that an extension to private land lease terms is "our real potential in the short term. Hopefully the military buildup will help in a few years but for now this is the best opportunity to expand the local economy and provide the impetus to restore investor confidence back to the CNMI."

Marian Pierce, another SEDC member, is also pleased with the increasing bipartisan support for the proposed constitutional amendment.

"Foreign investors are standing back and monitoring this critical policy change before us, before they move forward. We urge our Legislature and our people to support H.L.I. 16-4 so we can grow our economy by attracting large investors with available capital, creating wealth for families who can renegotiate and lease their private lands for longer terms with investors, and creating jobs for our resident workforce as a result of new real estate investment dollars to be pumped into our local economy," Pierce said.

Volcanic haze here again

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Emergency Management Office issued another volcanic haze alert after gases emitted by the Anatahan Volcano blanketed Saipan, Tinian, and Rota yesterday.

Many Saipan residents didn't notice the haze as it was raining most of the day. Classes at public and private schools were not cancelled.

EMO advised people who are having breathing problems to remain indoors while the volcanic haze advisory remains.

"Concentrations of volcanic gases should be low…but the haze and odor may bother people with respiratory problems," EMO said.

The agency also reminded mariners to take precautionary measures due to low visibility.

EMO said the northeast wind flow patterns are bringing some of the gases from Anatahan to Saipan and Tinian.

"The satellite images show light to variable plume at Anatahan extending south-southwest toward Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," EMO said.

The agency said the haze and light odor are expected to blanket the islands until the wind shifts enough to blow the gases out to sea and away from the islands.

As of 1:30pm, EMO's SO2 analyzer reading indicated 161ppb (parts per billions).

Last Feb. 13 and 14, the government issued a public health alert for Tinian, Saipan, and Rota when the volcanic haze spread to the islands.

Anatahan Volcano has been emitting gas and steam plume since its eruption in May 2003.

Gov. Benigno Fitial recently declared Anatahan island still unsafe for human habitation and ordered all travel to the island restricted, with the exception of scientific expeditions.

The government first issued the emergency declaration for Anatahan on May 13, 2003.

Anatahan is a small volcanic island 120 km north of Saipan. The volcano's first historic eruption was in May 2003. In April 2004, the volcano woke up again after a few months of slumber.

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INDUCTION RITES
Garapan Elementary School National Junior Honor Society members and their parents gather inside the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe for their Induction Ceremony Saturday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Reyes says arrest shows effective border controls

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration says the arrest of a Japanese suspect in a Los Angeles murder case shows that the Commonwealth has effective border control.

"It is clear that we can police our borders," press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said after sitting through the arraignment of Kazuyoshi Miura at the CNMI Superior Court yesterday. ***(See related stories on Page 1)***

Miura, whose conviction in the murder of his wife in Los Angeles 27 years ago was overturned by a Japanese high court, was arrested at the Saipan International Airport Friday on the same charge. The arrest occurred after cold-case detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department worked with CNMI and Guam authorities.

Reyes said the weekend's event disproved criticism from Washington, D.C. that the local government has poor control over its border. He added that it is not difficult to control the local border, as the Commonwealth is an isolated chain of islands.

"Our ports of entry are clearly defined. We have only a few ways to get in and out—by ship or by air. There's no connecting landmass, obviously, since we're a remote island. We have a good border control system here and it is getting better and better," Reyes said.

Border control, along with national security and the CNMI's history of labor abuse, is among the major concerns commonly cited by supporters of federalizing local immigration.

Reyes said that the administration is putting a lot of effort into clamping down on overstaying aliens while streamlining the alien labor hiring process.

The CNMI immigration bill now awaits floor consideration by the Senate as part of Senate bill 2483, an omnibus bill made up of some 50 House-approved bills.

Heinz wants salary cap exemptions expanded

A lawmaker wants healthcare experts and professionals working at the Legislature and courts to be exempted from government salary caps.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider said that flexibility in the compensation paid to these professionals is needed to attract and retain qualified people in government.

Under House Bill 16-30, certain medical staff and other professionals employed working in government may receive over $50,000 a year.

Physicians and several other professionals are already getting an annual salary that is more than $50,000. Some of them receive over $100,000 a year. But before they can do so, the governor must certify their exemption from the salary cap. Hofschneider's bill would eliminate this requirement.

Positions to be covered by the exemption include physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, clinical psychologists, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, clinical social workers, U.S. or CNMI-licensed attorneys, certified public accountants, engineers, and architects.

The bill would also increase to $60,000 the annual salary cap for professionals employed by the legislative and judicial branches.

To become law, the bill must be approved by the House of Representatives and Senate, and signed by the governor. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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Shell hikes gasoline prices again

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Shell Marianas Inc. raised its gas prices on Saipan by 10 cents a gallon effective last night. This was its second increase of the year but the fifth in the last three months.

"Shell is again forced to increase our retail price of regular, premium unleaded gasoline and diesel fuel effective close of business Feb. 25, 2008," said Shell Marianas president Eloy Lizama in a statement.

Lizama explained that the cost of finished products in Singapore, where Shell gets its supply, has again set new historical marks.

"The continuing increase in Shell's finished product cost forces us to move our prices," he said.

The company president indicated that the price increases will be posted as of opening of business this morning, Tuesday.

With the increase, Shell's price for regular self-service gas will now be $4.049 per gallon and $4.239 per gallon for premium.

For full service, Shell's price for regular will now be $4.179, while premium is $4.359.

Shell's diesel's price will now be $4.319 per gallon.

Last Jan. 8, Shell and Mobil Oil Marianas raised their gas prices by 8 cents on Saipan.

In November 2007, the two companies increased their prices thrice. In December 2007, they did not adjust their prices.

MEDIA

From Page 1

pect Kazuyoshi Miura.

The visiting journalists elbowed one another to get close-up shots of the 60-year-old Miura or to ask him for comments as he emerged from the courtroom after the hearing.

Department of Corrections officers who escorted the defendant could hardly squeeze through the hallway as reporters, cameramen, and photographers blocked their way.

A DOC official who hurt her finger in the media frenzy yelled at the visiting journalists to back off or face arrest so they could transport Miura safely back to the detention facility.

Sensing difficulty in penetrating the phalanx of media personnel, DOC officers moved the defendant back to the courtroom. The officers then used the Judiciary Building's backdoor exit to avoid the media.

The journalists also pounced on Miura's wife, Yoshie Miura, as she emerged from the courtroom to use the court's restroom. She refused to speak to the reporters.

Motorists and police officers were also surprised when they saw many Japanese journalists converging in front of the old DOC compound starting as early as 7am yesterday.

Tsutomu Hasegawa, a veteran photographer of Jiji Press, told *Saipan Tribune* that there were already about 30 journalists positioned in front of the DOC when he arrived at 7:45am.

Some journalists stayed in front of the Judiciary Building while a few of them waited outside the Huriguchi Building where the federal court is located.

Hasegawa said that, upon learning about Miura's arrest, he left Narita Sunday morning for Guam then flew to Saipan that night. The photographer said the airplane coming from Guam was filled with Tokyo journalists.

"This is my first time to come here. It's very hot here compared in Japan. It's winter season in Japan," he said.

Hasegawa said he needs to buy T-shirts because he brought along thick clothes.

He said Miura's case is sensational in Japan because the suspect has been battling the trial for a long time now.

Haruka Katakawa, Jiji Press City News Section staff writer, showed to *Saipan Tribune* copies of two Japanese newspapers that carry headlines about Miura's arrest on Saipan.

Katakawa said he arrived on Saipan Sunday night and that it is also his first time on the island.

"It's nice. I want to go swimming, but I can't because I have to work," said Katakawa, smiling.

Besides Jiji Press, the other journalists from the wire service are from Kyodo News.

From the broadcast media, the journalists were from NHK, NTV, TBS, Fuji Television, TV Asahi, and TV Tokyo.

From the print media were reporters from *Asahi Shinbun N.P., Yomiuri Shinbun, Mainichi Shinbun,* and *Sankei Shinbun.*

A court employee said she was amused at seeing such a huge number of journalists.

"It's the first time I've seen such big number of reporters here. The clicks and flashing of cameras seemed like it would never end," the court staff said.

A police officer commented that people on the island are not used to seeing such a large number of journalists covering an event.

The officer said police officers and DOC officers should also be exposed to such big media coverage so they would know how to handle similar situations.

EMO warns of high surf until this Thursday

The Emergency Management Office has issued a high surf alert and is warning the public to stay out of the water due to dangerous rip currents that could be life threatening.

The high surf advisory is now in effect until 6am Tuesday to 6am Thursday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan Guam, large swells generated by a frontal system east of Japan will batter north facing reefs through at least Thursday morning.

High surf advisory means that hazardous surf and dangerous rip currents will affect exposed reefs and beaches in the advisory area. Hazardous surf of 9 to 11 feet will occur along north facing reefs during the advisory period.

EMO is strongly advising the public, especially fishermen, tour operators, divers and swimmers, to stay out of the water, or avoid venturing exposed beaches especially along north facing reefs, where rip currents will be life-threatening. ***(EMO)***

NO BAIL

From Page 1

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman set the preliminary hearing for March 5 at 9am and the arraignment for March 10 at 9am.

Wiseman ordered Miura to proceed to the Adult Probation Office to determine whether he is eligible to have a court-appointed counsel.

The judge remanded the defendant back to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Earlier at the hearing, Wiseman directed Miura to hire his own lawyer after the defendant claimed that his current wife runs a clothing business and that she earns $30,000 a month.

When the judge asked the wife, Yoshie, about her $30,000 monthly income, she explained that the amount's value is different in Japan than on Saipan.

Wiseman decided to order the defendant to instead go to the Probation Office, which will determine if he is eligible to get a court-appointed lawyer.

Wiseman said he will set no bail at this time, considering that Miura is facing charges of fugitive from justice in connection with charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder that were filed in California.

At the hearing, chief public defender Adam Hardwicke argued that the arrest was unlawful, citing the absence of an arrest warrant and that the extradition procedures were not being followed, among other things.

But Wiseman only thanked Hardwicke for raising the issue and told him that yesterday was a bail hearing and not a preliminary hearing where that issue might be brought up.

Edward R. Cabrera of the Attorney Generals' Investigative Unit stated in court documents that Immigration agents detained Miura Friday at 2pm as he attempted to depart the CNMI.

In an affidavit supporting Miura's arrest, Cabrera said that agents of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency contacted him about the defendant's case in October 2007.

Cabrera said that ICE agents were told by Los Angeles Police's Cold Case Unit that Miura would probably be traveling to Saipan in November 2007.

The AGIU officer said an LA detective also asked for CNMI assistance in arresting Miura if he ever comes to Saipan.

The detective then provided AGIU with a copy of the felony complaint as well as a printout from the National Criminal Information Center alleging that Miura was charged with criminal activity in California.

After receiving the information, Cabrera said, he placed an alert in the CNMI Border Management System so that he will be notified if the defendant arrives or attempts to depart from the Commonwealth.

Cabrera said that when he informed LA Police about Miura's arrest, he was told that they are willing to extradite the defendant to California.

Miura had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 of the murder of his wife, Kazumi Miura. The verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high courts 10 years ago.

Miura and his wife (Kazumi) were visiting Los Angeles on Nov. 18, 1981, when they were shot in a parking lot. Miura was reportedly hit in the right leg, while his 28-year-old wife was shot in the head. She later died.

Miura reportedly collected about $1.4 million at today's exchange rate on life insurance policies he had taken out on his wife.

A *New York Times* report said that Japanese consular officials on Sunday interviewed Miura at his cell inside the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

''He seemed in good health, and was receiving a fair treatment," said Kenji Yoshida, one of the two Japanese consuls in Saipan.

''We talked about an hour, but not so much about his past crimes," Yoshida said. ''Naturally, he expressed hopes to see his family, and was very anxious to know what may happen to him."

The 1981 shooting caused an international uproar, in part because Miura blamed the attack on robbers, reinforcing Japanese perceptions of America as violent.

''I think U.S. investigators have all along believed that they can make the case with the evidence they had already collected," Tsutomu Sakaguchi, a Tokyo Metropolitan Police investigator at the time of the shooting, told TV Asahi in an interview Sunday. ''If they have a new evidence, that could be a decisive step."

The victim's mother said Sunday that she never gave up hope that the case would be resolved.

''I burned incense for my daughter and prayed at a family Buddhist altar, telling her that Americans will put an end to the case, so let's hold onto our hopes and wait," Yasuko Sasaki told Japan's public broadcaster NHK. ***(With NYT)***

PATIENTS

From Page 1

Just recently, an individual donated 20 wheelchairs to the Commonwealth Health Center but, according to CHC Volunteers president Kim Prinz-Coats, "now they're all gone."

The situation has gotten to a point where the CHC Volunteers is now pleading with people to return the equipment.

According to Prinz-Coats, they have spent over $2 million over the years on hospital equipment and other hospital items that should not be replaced until a period of time. But because people were just taking them, the missing hospital property would have to be replaced.

"And this makes it more difficult to buy much more needed hospital equipment," Prinz-Coats said.

The CHC Volunteers spent over $45,000 on wheelchairs alone over the years. At the moment, CHC has only eight wheelchairs left, Prinz-Coates said, and many hospital departments are asking the organization to buy more.

The CHC Volunteers has been trying to save up enough money to purchase a hyperbaric chamber to help treat diabetes patients of their wounds. "Right now, the hyperbaric chamber is our biggest goal," Prinz-Coats said.

For diabetes patients, foot surgery is bad news. Many diabetics suffer from reduced circulation, which can mean the amputation of both feet. However, with a hyperbaric chamber, wounds will heal more quickly, decreasing the chance of having their limbs cut off.

And because diving is one of the more popular sports among tourists in the CNMI, Prinz-Coats said, the hyperbaric chamber could be used to treat divers suffering from decompression sickness.

According to Prinz-Coats, the CHC Volunteers has been trying to raise close to a million dollars since 2006 to purchase this equipment.

However, because of other hospital and equipment needs, monies for the hyperbaric chamber "just keep getting depleted," she said.

Over the years, the group had purchased two mammography machines that benefit the women of the CNMI, a $60,000 8-bed telemetry machine placed in the Intensive Care Unit that watches over eight patients at the same time, $36,500 worth of film processors for the Radiology Section, and $40,497.64 worth of birthing beds, among a number of other things.

And just recently, the organization has been asked to buy a $400 scale for the Labor & Delivery Department. The Audio Department has also requested for a new audio equipment at $2,152 and the Operating Room has requested for two new wheelchairs at $250 apiece.

Prinz-Coates expressed a wish that people would stop taking hospital property and if taken, to "please return them."

"We're desperately trying to stop all that. I don't know why some people feel they're entitled to take hospital property. Do they not think about the next person coming in?" she asked.

The CHC Volunteers said it wants to start a program where patients and families would have to be inspected and escorted out before discharge.

"We hope to start that very soon. And we hope with a system like that, we'll be able to keep most hospital property," said Prinz-Coats.

She added that CHC has a program where patients can fill out a form to borrow wheelchairs and other hospital equipment and then return them.

"But this does not make up for the ones that are just taken out of the hospital and never returned," she added.

"If they borrow it, fine. But please return it. I don't care if it shows up at the front door at two in the morning or the parking lot is full of them; just please return them," Prinz-Coats said.

The CHC Volunteers is a non-profit organization that makes about $100,000 a year. Individuals donate their time to help raise money for the hospital.

"We're all about raising money to purchase equipment for the hospital. And everything we do here is for the hospital," Prinz-Coats said.

"It's money that can be used to purchase equipment for the hospital that everyone in the community can benefit from. No matter the race, creed, religion, or color—everyone benefits from that," she added.

Attack on social workers a 'desperate act'

A Catholic priest came to the defense of social workers who had been accused of helping federal officials coerce foreign workers into campaigning for immigration federalization.

Joseph Billotti said the accusations by the Taotao Tano citizen group against Sr. Mary Stella Mangona of Karidat, Lauri Ogumoro of Guma Esperansa, and Wendy Doromal of the National Advocacy Center for Sisters of the Good Shepherd are unjustified.

Billotti, who was writing for *North Star*, the weekly publication of the local Catholic church, said the motivation of the attack against the three women "may be just a desperate act of a desperate person or group. But, intended or not, it opens up a frightening scenario."

He said the women's critics were wrong to declare that there was conflict between the Division of Immigration and Guma Esperansa, which harbors victims of human trafficking and domestic abuse.

"There is not and cannot be [conflict between them] since their roles are distinct. Immigration is an enforcement agency; Guma is a social agency," he said.

Billotti added that when Ogumoro and Mangona testified at a congressional hearing last year, they were not arguing for federalization; they were merely describing their work as professionals. And the fact that some tried to block their testimonies "gave far more weight to their testimonies than they deserved."

He further said that the recent accusation that the social workers used their offices to "coerce" individuals and organizations to lobby U.S. congressmen into supporting immigration federalization "is equally difficult to understand."

"It appears plausible to me that someone was searching for anything to stop the congressional train [from] rolling toward federalization of immigration," Billotti said.

"As far as I can see, this search ferreted out personal e-mails between two of the women and read into those e-mails a fairy tale story of coercion and conspiracy between [U.S. Senate staffer Allen] Stayman and these women. The more serious question raised by this accusation, however, is how were these personal e-mails accessed? Was there a criminal invasion of privacy here?" he added.

The priest also expressed concern about threats to cut funding to Guma Esperansa and Karidat.

"This can be read to mean that they feel they cannot attack Guma Esperansa and Karidat directly. So, close them by misdirection. Attack the credibility of their staff. If that means the reputations of hard working, dedicated women must be smeared, well, that is just collateral damage. Just get rid of or blunt the effectiveness of the one organization, Guma Esperansa, whose day-to-day work shows that domestic violence and human trafficking are not things of the past in the CNMI," he said. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

Lions Club get 60 pairs of prescription glasses

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Saipan Unity Lions Club and other Lions Clubs on island received about 60 pairs of prescription glasses from the Lions Club in Chicago, Illinois.

The 60 pairs of prescription glasses received by the Lion's Clubs are to given to residents with vision problems.

"This is one of the major projects of all the Lions Club throughout the world, to help those less fortunate who have vision impairment and cannot afford to see an ophthalmologist," said Tony Benavente, vice president of the Saipan Unity Lion's Club.

The donation of prescription glasses promotes the Lion's Club's new campaign, called the SightFirst II campaign. The campaign aims to help fight world blindness, especially childhood blindness.

The SightFirst II is setting out to raise at least $150 million to continue and expand the work of SightFirst II, Lions' worldwide program to combat preventable blindness.

A month from now, the Lion's Club will put out a public announcement to issue the prescription glasses to individuals who cannot afford the services of an eye doctor.

Benavente said the organization has spoken with the staff of the Hardt Eye Clinic on working with them to provide their services

"They have shown extensive support for the eye program, especially with school children. They are aware of the number of school children whose grades are suffering simply because they cannot read letters very well due to eye problems," Benavente said.

The Lions Club is an international network of 1.3 million men and women in 202 countries and geographic areas who work together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world.

Known for working to end preventable blindness, Lions participate in a vast variety of projects important to their communities. These projects range from cleaning up local parks to providing supplies to victims of natural disasters.

CHC needs more volunteers

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The volunteers of the Commonwealth Health Center have announced a need for more volunteers who will donate whatever time they have to assist at the hospital's gift shop and do simple rounds at the hospital.

CHC Volunteers president Kim Prinz-Coats said the task of a hospital volunteer is fairly simple.

"You give what you feel, and nobody is asking you to do more," she said.

She said that volunteers are not obligated to assist every day.

"It's on your time. When you have time to volunteer, just let us know. We're always very happy to welcome you," said Prinz-Coats.

Prinz-Coats, who has been with the CHC Volunteers since 1989, said the reason why she bothers to get involved is for the benefit of the hospital and the people.

"Sure, we don't earn any money doing this. The money we earn is used to buy hospital equipment that helps everybody," she said.

She added that the volunteer work is not a whole-day commitment.

"If even you have just one or two hours to spare once a month, why not use it to volunteer here at the hospital?" she asked.

She said the biggest supporters of the CHC Volunteers are the hospital staff.

"They're always happy to see us and it's always a treat to see them. I've met so many people and have made so many friends just by doing what I do here," she said.

Prinz-Coats said that plans are underway for another gift shop at the new Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Public Health & Dialysis Clinic.

She said the hospital is losing thousands of dollars just by the absence of a gift shop in that area as people who are waiting or wanting to purchase something real quick fail to come to the CHC gift shop where it is currently located because it is too far.

"Hopefully, we can get that up and running very soon. That way, we can earn more money to buy hospital equipment and other necessities requested by the hospital," said Prinz-Coats.

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PSS HEAD START PROGRAM
P.O. Box 501370, Saipan, ,MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-3751 Fax: (670) 664-3760
www.cnmihdst@pticom.com

Head Start Policy Council Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a special meeting on February 29, 2008 (Friday), from 10:30am-2:30pm at the Fresko Cabin, Palms Resort Saipan, San Roque, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Quorum
- D. Adoption of Agenda

II. Reports
- A. Program Director
  - 1. Monthly Report for January 2008
- B. Financial Report
  - 1. Monthly Financial Status Report for January 2008
- C. Standing Committees
  - 1. Personnel
  - 2. Education Curriculum
  - 3. Executive
  - 4. Finance
  - 5. Public Relations
- D. Updates
  - 1. Human Resource Office
  - 2. Self Assessment Findings for SY 07-08

III. Old Business
IV. New Business
- A. Budget Planning for FY 08-09

V. Executive Session
VI. Next Meeting
VII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Meyers at 664-3751.

Mr. Efrain Atalig
Chairperson

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COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

INVITATION TO BID
PACIFIC GARDENIA HOTEL SUNSET BAR & GRILL

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is soliciting bids for the sale of the PACIFIC GARDENIA HOTEL SUNSET BAR & GRILL. Sale includes CDA's interest in the following sites:

- Site 1 - Lot 008 H 33 - 1,017 sqm Sunset Bar & Grill
- Site 2 - Lot 008 H 36 - 479 sqm Residential Home
- Site 3 - Lot 008 H 37 - 780 sqm Hotel
- Site 4 - Lot 008 H 29 - 950 sqm Parking north of hotel (leasehold interest)
- Site 5 - Lot 008 H 31 - 1,413 sqm Former Seoul Rest.(subject to lease)

LOTS ARE FREE OF CNMI TAX LIENS AND REDEMPTION PERIOD, BUT TITLE IS NOT OTHERWISE WARRANTED.

The sale shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
1. Minimum bid - $1,000,000.00.
2. Sale will be granted to the highest bidder.
3. PGH Lots are being sold as a package.
4. PGH Lots are being sold at its current condition, **"AS IS"**.
5. PGH Lots are being sold **"WITHOUT WARRANTY"** of any type.
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Interested party or person may contact Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer (ACEO) at 234-6245 or 234-7145 for further information. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

A deposit of 10% of the total price bid must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

Interested party or person is asked to submit their bid at the CDA Saipan Office in a sealed envelop identified as "Pacific Gardenia Hotel Bid" addressed to Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, ACEO. Deadline to submit bid is **10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 12, 2008.**

Dated this 12th day of February 2008.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-023

The CNMI Public School System and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Construction of Building "J" to be located at Marianas High School, Saipan.**

Detailed information on the scope of work and specifications are available, for a fee, at Pacific Quick Print & Post located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. **All interested bidders, prior to obtaining copies of the detailed information, shall register with the PSS Office of Procurement & Supply.**

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-023" containing (1) original and five (5) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than March 4, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-023, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (1-original and one copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $ 3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $.50 per hour that is scheduled to take effect on May 26, 2008 and extending further, until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of $ 7.50 per hour.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with CNMI Public School System Procurement Regulations. Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the Contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

The CNMI Public School System hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

Pursuant to the Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Sixty (160) Calendar days beginning with the date of Notice to Proceed. The Contractor shall pay to the CNMI Public School System the greater sum of **U.S. $100.00 per day (One Hundred Dollars), or 2% of the total contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time**, not as a penalty, but as reasonable liquidated damages for failing, neglecting, or refusing to complete the work within the time herein specified, and said sums shall be paid for each consecutive calendar day that the Contractor shall be in default beyond the time stipulated for completing the work.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the PSS Conference Room, 3rd Floor NMI Retirement Fund Building, on February 22, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Manuel A. Sablan
NMHC Board Chairman

/S/ Carl Dela Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P&S Officer

10-percent sales hike due to restaurant flyer promo

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 12 restaurants under the Japan Saipan Travel Association are happy to report that their promotional flyers have helped boost sales an average of 10-20 percent last month.

JSTA restaurant committee chair Akira Onishi said Capricciosa, Tony Roma's, Kinpachi, Moby Dick, Mitsue, Coco Restaurant, Furasato, Umibozu, Country House, E'sY Kitchen, Moomin-mura, and Torihide En all enjoyed an increase in sales during the promotion's first full month of implementation in January.

Onishi, who is the general manager of Tony Roma's and Capricciosa, said his committee kicked off the promotion in the latter part of December, especially timed to coincide with the resumption of the Osaka-Saipan flights of Northwest Airlines on Dec. 21, 2007.

The promotional flyers were all in the Japanese language and offered 20 percent to 30 percent discounts to tourists who will dine at the 12 restaurants.

While cross-promotional activities between restaurants—much more involving 12 establishments—was unheard of during the boom years of the CNMI tourism industry in the 1990s, Onishi said hard times and the low number of tourists coming from Japan prompted players in the restaurant industry on Saipan to seek each other's help.

He said the JSTA committee and restaurant owners are both happy with the development and will review whether to extend the two-month promotion, which will end on Feb. 29.

JSTA is made up of the 12 aforementioned restaurants and seven of the islands' top tour operators—Pacific Development, Inc., R&C Tours, NTA, Pacific Micronesia Tours, Inc., HIS, HEI, Pau Pau Tours, and HIT Tours.

Aside from the restaurant committee, JSTA also has committees for golf, hotel, and diving.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
A member of the DFS Team celebrates after finishing the Fear Factor round of the games.

PTC tops Corporate Challenge

By CLARISSA DAVID
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The team of Pacific Trading Co. outperformed the Fiesta Resort team during the deciding round of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2008 Corporate Challenge held at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan on Sunday.

The two teams tied at 57 points, prompting SCC officials serving as judges to come up with a tiebreaker. The team representative who can throw a coconut from a certain distance to the designated area wins. Giovanni Sablan made the winning throw for PTC.

PTC Team Captain Eloy San Nicolas said that their team didn't expect to win at all. "After we lost the tug of war event, we thought we were gonna come in second or third."

All participating teams gained points by taking part in five different events, which included the usual Egg Toss, Basketball and Tug of War competitions. For this year, SCC's events committee added the Fear Factor Challenge where team members lined up to eat exotic food served in covered plates. The menu consisted of beef fats, chicken feet, fish eye, balut, and fish heart. Tina Palacios of the events committee said that they first boiled the food they served the teams. "We don't want people to get sick."

The committee also added a twist to the Triathlon event. Instead of the cycling-swimming-running arrangement, the participants had to ride a skateboard, run together as a team, and do kayak.

Fiesta Team Captain Maggie Sablan did not mind coming in second after the tiebreak. "It's all about having fun and establishing great camaraderie with people you've never met before. We've met new people here and that's wonderful. We came close to winning and that's really nice." Fiesta team also won the Team Spirit award.

Other teams that participated this year were Delta Management, Marpac, Coca Cola, Saipan Shipping, Moylans, Shell, Triple J, Herman's Bakery, Hardt Eye, PTI, PIC, DFS, and CTSI.

According to SCC executive director Kyle Calabrese, they were concerned that the turnout for the event might be low because of the current economic crisis on island. "We were really surprised. We're really happy we have new companies competing this year who haven't competed before."

The SCC Corporate Challenge is an annual event hosted by SCC that aims to raise funds for the Chamber's Educational Scholarship Fund.

Calabrese said the event is also an opportunity to foster comradeship among its members. "This event is a chance for our member companies to get together, to come out with their colleagues. It's a chance for companies to get together and bring their friends and families to have fun."

Employers who don't prioritize locals warned

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Employment Services chief warned yesterday that employers may face sanctions for not giving preference to resident workers who apply for job vacancies announcements.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Department of Labor Employment Services director Alfred Pangelinan said that if they find out that employers are not entertaining resident applicants, these employers may get a monetary sanction or their job vacancy announcement will not be certified.

Pangelinan emphasized that employers must exhaust all means to give preference to residents for available job opportunities before hiring alien workers.

"To qualify for secondary workers [guest workers] they [aliens] have to apply with us at the Division of Employment Services," he said.

The director said he received complaints from applicants that certain employers are telling them no jobs are available despite announcements at Labor's website and in the newspapers.

"I want to tell the employers not to do this," said Pangelinan, stressing that they have to give preference to resident workers to fill the positions, whether it is a renewal, transfer, or new jobs.

Pangelinan said businesses must entertain and sit down with the resident applicants and assess their qualifications.

He said nonresident workers are given the opportunity to qualify for available job positions as secondary preference under the new labor law.

Pangelinan encouraged applicants to call Labor within 14 days whenever they believe they qualify for the job announcement but employers just ignore them.

ACCIDENT JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A police officer looks at the white BMW as it is being towed after colliding with a silver Toyota near Pacific Gardenia in Chalan Kanoa Monday afternoon. The driver of the silver Toyota was rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center. The cause of the accident is currently under investigation.

NMC board looks forward to new member

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents is hoping that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will appoint a new member to the board soon.

Since former regent Eloise A. Furey's sudden withdrawal from the Board of Regents, the board has been one member short.

According to the board's acting chairman, Joey San Nicholas, the board still has enough members for a quorum to continue with regular business but having a complete board would even be better.

San Nicholas and Furey had both declined to comment on Furey's resignation.

"I would prefer not to comment yet on Eloise's reasons for resigning as I have not discussed this matter with the Board of Regents. Rather, I would like to say that as acting chair, I respect and accept her decision to resign. Eloise was a committed member of the Board of Regents and her presence will be missed," San Nicholas said.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. has assured that the governor will fill the vacancy soon and will submit a nomination to the Senate for confirmation.

"The governor will consult with his key staff and advisers for recommended candidates. Public input is also welcome," Reyes said.

There are currently six members on the board.

The board's primary duty is to uphold the mission of the college, which is "to provide the best quality and meaningful postsecondary and adult educational opportunities for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the individual and the commonwealth as a whole."

With the absence of Furey, "we look forward to the appointment of a new regent," San Nicholas said.

'Performeter' report on CNMI government at Rotary meeting

Today's meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan will feature Frank Crawford of Crawford & Associates CPA, who will present his firm's "Performeter" report on the CNMI government's financial performance and condition.

The Performeter is a financial analysis that takes a government's audited financial statements and translates them into useful and understandable measures of financial performance. Using financial performance criteria such as debt-to-asset ratio, revenue dispersion, pension program funding, timeliness and accuracy of audited financial statements, and several others, the analysis is performed on a number of city and local governments across the United States and is considered an objective and independent measure of a government's financial performance.

Crawford will also be conducting special presentations to the House and Senate, as well as other critical agencies, this week.

Besides Crawford, the other guest in today's meeting at the Giovanni's Restaurant of the Hyatt Regency Saipan is Carl Pogue, station manager of KRNM. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIAN PRINIPONEN ATKILON TÅNO' PUBLIKU

Segun i Lai Publiku 15-2, I Dipåttamenton Tano' Publiku man-nånå'i' notisia pot i intension para ma'atkilan tano' publiku giya Saipan, Commonwealth Sankatan siha na Islas Marianas. Maseha håye na petsona interesao, siña muna halom opinion, infotmasion, yan kinentra pot i mapropone na atkilon tano publiku. I mapropopone i sigiente siha.

i. Para uma`atkila tano' publiku madeskribe kumo i numiron propiadåt 003 A 11, konsisiste kuårentai-nuebe mit kuåttro sientos sinkuentai-nuebe metro (49,459) square meters, 003 A 20, ha konsisiste kuårentai-nuebe mit, kinientos tres (49,503) square meters, 003 A 19, ha konsisiste dies mit(10,000) square meters, mas o` menos ni gaige giya Marpi, Saipan. Kopian i lugåt i sitiu gaige gi Depåttamenton Tano' Publiku ni libre hao umina.

ii. I para u inatkila este na tano i Win DnC. Co., LTD, un koporasion gi CNMI. I kuetpon direktot siha i sigente: Youngjai Kim, Kwon Hee Lee, yan si Kwi Dong Woo.

I presidente yan treserun i koporasion si Youngjai Kim. I segundo presidente si Kwon Hee Lee; sekritåria si Kwi Dong Woo.

iii. Si Señor Youngjai Kim (Presidente yan Treseru), Kwon Hee Lee (segundon i Presidente) yan si Kwi Dong Woo (Sekritårio), munigosiu i kontratan atkilon.

iv. I para u inatkila i lugåt debi de u usa solamente para u håtsa ya u establesi un hotel yan ottro siha fasilidåt.

I mapropone na tiempon kontråtan atkilon para bente-siñko åños (25 yrs.), yan appottunidat ma-ekstiende para talo kinse åños (15 yrs.).

I mapropone na åpas atkilon gi sakkan durånten i tiempo sigun i mapega na presiu segun i balin i lugåt.

v. I kabåles na kopian i mapropone na kontråtan atkilon siña un chule gi ofisinan I Dipåttamenton Tano' Publiku, ni gaige gi mina dos na bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, giya Saipan, mina dos bibienda gi Bank of Saipan Commercial Building giya Luta, fine'nina na bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building giya Tinian.

vi. Taya otro propositu guaha pot kontråtan atkilon tano publiko ni tineteka iya Marpi, Saipan.

vii. I Sekretarion Dipåttamenton Tano' Publiku siempre hu aksepta tinige' opinion, mensåhen kinentra yan testimonio osino otro siha na propositu ginen i man-interesao na petsona åntes de Matsu 6, 2008 gi Ofisinan Dipåttamenton Tano' Publiku siha ni gaige giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong ischil mángámangiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngali milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári Lot No. 003 A 11, eyoor faigh me tiwow sangaras fabwughuw limeigh me tiwow llapal (49,459 square meters), elap me ngáre eghús, Lot No. 003 A 20, faigh me tiwoow sangaras, lima bwughuw elluw (49,503) sq. meters llapal, elap me ngare eghuus, me Lot No. 003 A 19,, seigh sangaras (10,000) sq. meters, llapal, elap me eghus, elo Máschepi, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor llól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Win DnC Co., LTD., corporation. Schóól Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellol corporation nge Youngjai Kim, Kwon Hee Lee me Kwidong Woo.

Samwoolul (President me Treasurer) corporation nge Youngjai Kim. Vice President nge Kwon Hee Lee. Sekkretório nge Kwidong Woo.

iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Youngjai Kim (Samwoolul me Treasurer), Kwon Hee Lee (Vice President) me Kwidong Woo (Sekkretório) corporation yeel.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá bwuley ngali schagh akkayul hotel me akkaw iimw kka a fillong.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon ebwe ruweigh me limwoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol akkilon ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).

v. Emmwel óubwe bwughil tilighial akkilon mellól bwulasiyool ammwelil falúweer toulap, elo aruwowal pwó(2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Buiding, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo akkááw pomwol akkilon yeel me Máschepi, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ebwe bwughil aweewe kkaal, aingiingil, mereer amweyút aramas mmwal schagh Ghúúw(Móózo) 6, 2007 mellól Depattamentool Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me Tchúlúyól..

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 003 A 11, containing an area of approximately 49,459 square meters, more or less, Lot No. 003 A 20, containing an area of approximately 49,503 square meters, more or less, and Lot No. 003 A 19, containing an area of approximately 10,000 square meters, situated in Marpi, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Win DnC Co., LTD., a CNMI corporation. The board of directors of the corporation are Youngjai Kim, Kwon Hee Lee, and Kwidong Woo.

The president and treasurer of the corporation is Youngjai Kim. The vice president is Kwon Hee Lee. The secretary is Kwidong Woo.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Youngjai Kim, Mr. Kwon Hee Lee, and Mr. Kwidong Woo, president/treasurer, vice president, and secretary, respectively, of the corporation.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of constructing and developing a hotel and related facilities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before March 6, 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Bordallo reacts to B-2 crash in Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Guam Rep. Madeleine Bordallo issued a statement this weekend relating to the recent crash of a B-2 Stealth bomber in Guam, saying she will work with the military leadership to ensure that all safety issues are addressed.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the airmen who were involved in the crash of the B-2 Stealth bomber on Andersen Air Force Base [Saturday]. I am relieved to hear from the Air Force that the crew of this plane are in good condition," said Bordallo.

She said the "unfortunate incident," coupled with the recent crash of the EA-6B Prowler earlier in the month in Guam should stand as a strong reminder "that our men and women in uniform have dangerous jobs that secure our nation's freedom. We appreciate their service to our nation in the face of such dangers and threats."

"I know that the Air Force will quickly commence a thorough investigation into this crash. I know the report will address any issues of safety to the community. I will work closely with Andersen Air Force base and Air Force leadership to ensure that all safety issues are appropriately addressed," she added.

The B-2 stealth bomber plunged to the ground shortly after taking off from an air base in Guam on Saturday, the first time one crashed, but both pilots ejected safely.

The aircraft was taking off with three others on their last flight out of Guam after a four-month deployment. ***(With AP)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMI DB to DC conversion meetings

The ASC Trust Corp. has scheduled meetings for the conversion of eligible government employees from the defined benefit plan to the defined contribution plan under the government's retirement program.

The meetings will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008, with three separate sessions:

- Session 1: am - 9:30am
- Session 2: 2pm - 3:30pm
- Session 3: 5pm - 6:30pm

These group meetings are being held for those eligible DB members as well as for those interested in learning more about the transfer.

An eligible DB member is an employee with less than 10 years of credited service with the CNMI Government. Once you have become 10 years vested with the government, you are no longer considered an eligible employee who can convert. The window to convert your DB account ends on July 25, 2008.

Contact the ASC Saipan branch manager, Tania Mesa, at (670) 235-2724 to reserve a spot for one of the sessions. You can also e-mail Mesa at tania.mesa@ascpac.com. Seats are limited and will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. ***(ASC)***

Zoning Board solicits suggested changes to law

The Zoning Board is informing the public that it will soon be evaluating suggestions for changes to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007. A draft package of proposed changes will be circulated for public review, revised, and then forwarded to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for their consideration. The Board recognizes that periodic adjustments to the law are important to ensure the law conforms to changing development issues and trends.

The public can help the Board by sending recommendations for changing the Zoning Law text or maps (rezones) by March 14. Submit recommendations to staff@zoning.gov.mp, or mail or deliver them to the Zoning Office.

Copies of the law are available at the zoning website (www.zoning.gov.mp) or can be viewed or purchased from the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan. The Zoning Office will be pleased to answer any questions about the law. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '88 meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1988 will be meeting again on Thursday, March 6, 2008, at 7pm at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito behind Saipan International School. All classmates are encouraged to attend this important meeting. For more information, contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689. ***(PR)***

Parenting, childhood disorders seminar

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will be celebrating March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This year's theme is "SUCCESS-When Doors Open- We succeed!"

On Monday, March 3, 2008, CGC psychiatrist Dr. Willie Gutowski will conduct a presentation on Normal Parenting Issue and Common Childhood Disorders. All parents and teachers are encouraged to take this opportunity to attend this presentation.

To register, call the Council office at 664-7000/7001/7003/7005/7041 or fax registration form to 664-7030. ***(PR)***

Red flag up at Rota drainage site

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on the District #1 Drainage on Rota after samples collected from the site were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

In order to adequately address public health concerns, DEQ has given the location a red flag and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of the site for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ analyzed water samples collected from 12 locations on Rota as part of routine sampling. DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter.

Live-fire training at Farallon this week

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said that the U.S. military would be conducting live-fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla on Feb. 26 – 29, 2008, from 9am to 7pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla training area on a 10 nautical-mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the MO's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

Council cautions mowers, bush cutters

The 10th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council gave notice to the public, especially the operators of tractor mower, brush cutting machinery and mechanized chain saw whose work is performed under the auspices of the CNMI or local government agencies, including private contractors operating along the major highways and secondary roadways, including walkways of pathways, to always exercise due diligence in taking every necessary precautionary safety measure against causing serious injuries to people and properties passing by or in close proximity to the affected public premises or private work sites. ***(PR)***

PAWS Kids' Night Out is back!

For parents, enjoy some special time to yourselves! For kids, join in the fun, food, and friends. The PAWS Kids' Night out will be held on Friday, Feb. 29, 6pm – 10pm, at the Whimsy Room of the Saipan Grand Hotel. The cost is $10 for the first child, and $5 for each additional sibling, ages 3-12.

Check in is at 6pm – 6:30pm (No drop offs after 6:30). Pick up is by 10pm but early pickups are welcome.

Register via phone at 285-PAWS (285-7297) or via email at melissasimms56@hotmail.com. This event is sponsored by the Saipan Grand Hotel. ***(PAWS)***

MHS Class of '83 meeting

The MHS Class of 1983's 25th year reunion is fast approaching and event tickets are selling like hotcakes. Come and join us at our next meeting on Friday, Feb. 29, 2008, at 6pm, at the Kilili Beach pavilion. See your committee memners for great deals on event tickets.

Contact any of the Steering Committee members for details: Tonnei Camacho, 483-9665; Viola Kaipat, 483-0214; Ed Camacho, 483-5262; Jane Tudela, 234-9571; Frances Mildred Cruz, 483-0995; Ester Teregeyo, 285-6284; Ben Sablan, 287-1480; or Diego Songsong, 287-4300. ***(PR)***

Mificpa tax seminar on March 1

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants has invited David Burger to conduct a tax seminar on March 1, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Burger is the chairman of CNMI Board of Accountancy.

The topics will include an overview of the preparation of Form 1040CM-Individual Income Tax Return and Form 1120CM-Corporate Income Tax Return. Also, recent updates and developments prescribed by the CNMI Revenue & Taxation as well as the United States Internal Revenue Code on Corporate Taxation will be discussed.

All accountants, members and non-members are encouraged to attend this current and informative seminar. The managers and other professional individuals who seek to get more information with these tax returns are also welcome.

A seminar fee of $10 for members and $12 for non-members is required. Proceeds will go to selected charitable/civic organization.

For registration, call Irene at 287-7997, Lois at 235-9322 or Jho at 285-2812. ***(Mificpa)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 26, 2001

CUC faces House scrutiny

The continued bickering on utility debts and excessive travel tabs incurred by officials of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation are likely to cause more uproar as the Legislature prepares for an in-depth investigation next week. The lower chamber of the CNMI Legislature has been summoning courage to stay focus on the issue despite CUC's persistent refusal to provide the House of Representatives the requested financial status.

Port improvements fail to seduce direct flights

Despite ongoing major runway improvements, Rota may still have to wait until it becomes economically viable for Continental Micronesia to resume its air service to the island. Bill Meehan, Continental Micronesia President, told the sad news during the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) General Membership Meeting at the Hyatt last Friday, were he was the keynote speaker.

Tests confirm fuel leak at Saipan airport

Soil samples taken from areas near Saipan International Airport disclosed fuel vapor contamination which warrants immediate implementation of extensive clean-up operations. Private solid and hazardous waste management firm, Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting uncovered evidence of "subsurface" contamination following the comprehensive water and soil testing analysis.

February 26, 2002

Tourism loss may reach $152M

The CNMI economy could fail to tap some $162 million in additional revenue from the tourism sector if strategies to revive the tourism industry do not push through this year. This grim scenario presented by key players in the tourism industry during a strategic planning meeting held Thursday will only be erased if all efforts are refocused toward the number one travel market for the CNMI-Japan.

MVA to cultivate China market

The Marianas Visitors Authority vowed to give its full attention to China in hopes to cultivate a new segment of tourist market in the Northern Marianas amid the slowdown of the Japan economy. MVA Board Chair Dave M. Sablan on Friday said three major points would be discussed during the scheduled board meeting of the tourism agency this week, including funding assistance for an effective marketing tool in China.

Shoring up the garment industry in the NMI

In 1999 alone, the apparel manufacturing industry in the CNMI contributed $72.8 million to the government's coffers, or about 34 percent of the government's $216 million revenues for that year. Since 48 percent of all government revenue is spent on personnel alone, that $72.8 million was enough to pay for the salaries of 1,680 government workers.

February 26, 2003

Torres: Retro wages out this Friday

The CNMI government is expected to make its first payment on the long-overdue retroactive salary for Saipan government workers this Friday, according to Rep. Stanley T. Torres. The government expects to pay out the retroactive salaries to more than 1,200 government workers on Saipan, he said in a statement faxed to media offices.

Torres seeks official links with Brisbane's Chamorro community

After establishing familial links with the Chamorro community in Brisbane, Australia, the House Committee on U.S. and Foreign Affairs is aiming to take the ties to an official level, through a Saipan-Brisbane sister city relations. Committee Chairman William S. Torres, in a letter to Chamorro in Brisbane Committee co-founders Beverly Barter and Jacqueline Asanuma, expressed interest to form an official linkage between Saipan and the Australian city that is reportedly home to some 1,200 Chamorros.

New oil firm to compete with Mobil, Shell

Collaborative efforts to help the CNMI economy are now underway after a Saipan lawmaker unveiled plans to bring in a Korean firm that would compete with oil companies like the Mobil Oil Marianas and Shell Marianas. Rep. Andrew Salas said he has begun discussion with SK Shipping Corp., a company that supplies fuel to Korea and other Pacific island-territories, the possibility of delivering fuel to the CNMI in hopes to lower fuel costs.

Annual poetry competition set for Thursday

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities invites the public to attend the Fifth Annual Valentine Sengebau Poetry Competition to be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater at 6:30pm on Thursday, Feb. 28.

This annual Council-sponsored event honors the late Valentine Sengebau, a long-time Palauan resident of the Commonwealth and well known poet. It is a part of the Council's efforts to foster local literary capabilities.

According to the Council's executive director, Paz C. Younis, the contest will feature 22 student poets representing twelve schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Finalists were selected by their respective schools through internal competition.

Younis said that poems are in a variety of styles and address topics relating to culture, identity and change in the Northern Marianas.

Finalists will be scored by panels of judges in two criteria: poetry content and recital quality.

Content judges will consider the use of symbolism, imagery, and metaphor, while recital judges will score each poet's style and delivery. Poem content will count for 70 percent of the score and recital quality, 30 percent.

First place finishers in junior and senior division will have their names inscribed on perpetual trophies which will be kept by the wining schools until next year's competition.

The Council is a non-profit corporation dedicated to bringing quality humanities programming to the people of the Commonwealth. ***(PR)***

CORPORATE CHALLENGE
Pacific Islands Club team members gather for a photo during the 2008 Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan Sunday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CONTEST WINNERS
The winners of a logo contest held by SAEF Griffins, a new school in Dan Dan. The winners are Sae-Mi Hong and Christian Rider.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TEEN LEOS
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of Saipan Teen Unity Leo Club and Saipan Unity Lions Club are seen here picking up trash at the beach area of 13 Fisherman up to Quartermaster Road yesterday morning.

Restaurant 360 supports local artist

The recently opened Revolving Restaurant 360 atop the Marianas Business Plaza is helping showcase the work of local artists. Patrons will find art designed by the local arts community on Saipan hanging on the walls of 360. This gives the artists the opportunity to display their work and provides them an avenue for selling it.

One local artist, Marconi Calindas, caught the eye of 360 proprietor Andy Tidwell when displaying his work at 360. Knowing that "Wear-A-Marconi" was quickly becoming a popular brand, Restaurant 360 commissioned Marconi to design a t-shirt that the staff of 360 would wear. The shirt was to colorful, with a whimsical feel to display the uniqueness of 360. The vision came to life this past week when the shirts arrived. The staff at 360 now wear the shirts during lunch and happy hour each day.

"360 is a unique place on Saipan," said Tidwell. "Just like our one-of-a-kind dining experience, we wanted our staff to have something unique to wear. We offer incredible views, great food and great service at a price point that is easy on everyone's budget. Most importantly, we are supporting a local artist and the local art community."

"We are deeply honored to have provided an exclusive design for Saipan's premier dining experience. Our shirts are known to be more than a shirt but also an art, inspired by the large canvas of the beautiful islands of the Northern Marianas," said Calindas.

For those who like the shirts, you may purchase one for $19.95 at 360. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Monique and Travis of Restaurant 360 pause for a break to show off their new t-shirts.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Sanctions needed on Myanmar

If you haven't been paying close attention, you might think some recent announcements out of Myanmar, also known as Burma, denoted progress in this broken Southeast Asian state. After 14 years of promises, the junta says that it is finally introducing a constitution, with a referendum due in May. In 2010, it says, there will be full-fledged elections—the first since those it annulled in 1990, when they were won by the democratic opposition.

Unfortunately, this supposed constitution, like the faux democracy it constructs, enshrines only the dictators who are holding the country hostage. Written by delegates cherry-picked by the government and lacking the input of the opposition party or many ethnic minorities, the constitution will reserve 25 percent of parliamentary seats for the military. Through a well-crafted technicality, it also bars Aung San Suu Kyi—opposition leader, Nobel Peace Prize winner and house arrestee—from holding office.

A short five months ago, the plight of the Burmese briefly held the world's sympathy and outrage. The military government had greeted peaceful pro-democracy demonstrations with violence and murder, raiding monasteries and imprisoning and killing Buddhist monks. Officials arrested an estimated 700 dissidents during and after the protests, bringing the country's total political prisoner population to about 1,900, many of whom are probably being tortured. In response the United Nations Security Council briefly stuck its neck out to say it "strongly" deplored Burma's brutality. But despite a subsequent promise to cooperate with the international community, the Burmese government has stonewalled the United Nations, denying an envoy a visa for months (he's supposed to finally visit in March); kept Aung San Suu Kyi under isolated house arrest; and, this month, extended the house arrest of her 80-year-old deputy leader, Tin Oo, for another year.

If the constitutional referendum goes through as planned, it will help the government falsely legitimize these consistently repressive policies. Through targeted banking sanctions—which the United States has ordered but which the European Union, China and other countries have so far been too timid or self-interested to pursue—the international community should prove it sees through the charade and force Burma into true democratic reform.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Flying high

Airstrip on Pagan

Now here is an idea that seems truly ridiculous. Of all the things we could think of to spend nearly five million dollars on, an airport on Pagan has got to be right up there with generating electric power with hamster cages, or an open air ice rink in Garapan.

According to the news source, the Pagan International Spaceport is expected to serve up to two flights of single or twin-engine aircraft per month for the first five years. Wow, that's a whopping 120 flights for only $4,900,000. What a bargain! Let's see, that would be a bit over $40,800 for each landing over the next five years. This is assuming Pagan does not erupt again, spewing lava over the runway like it did last time.

Northern Islands Mayor Valentin Taisakan says this would be a good idea because there may be economic potential in exporting lava rocks, that's what he said, lava rocks from Pagan to somewhere where they don't have a volcano closer than 1,500 sea miles away, I guess. This in lieu of exporting pozzolan or pizza dough, both of which are pretty much tapped out as highly sought after investment opportunities at this point. Whatever Pagan may be exporting, flying rocks off the island will not be part of the business plan. They may have some valuable, exportable commodities, ummm, stashed on Pagan, that can be flown off but if so, no one is specifying the cost per kilo.

Now to get serious. The handful of people who live on Pagan, and the handful that would like to travel there to see the sights would be much better served by buying an unimproved field STOL (short take off and landing) aircraft outright. Such aircraft are used extensively in Alaska, Africa and many other parts of the world where landing fields are unavailable and or where there is insufficient air traffic to warrant large expenditures building airfields. It could be purchased, owned, maintained and operated for far less than the cost of the Pagan Spaceport and could also land without runways anywhere where a few hundred feet of moderately level terrain could be found. Other islands and constituencies could be served, not just Pagan.

Here is another reasonable idea. Buy a boat. You can buy and maintain a pretty sizable craft and operate it for a lot less than $40 thousand per trip. It can carry a lot more than an aircraft and once again, it can be made to serve more than just Pagan Island. And, hey, you can dangle some lines and haul in a few fish on the way there and on the way back.

One last option. We taxpayers could even afford to charter a helicopter when needed to go to and from Pagan and elsewhere cheaper than the proposed permanent airport's cost. Remember the proffered $5 million only buys a landing strip and does not include the cost to fly there and back or an aircraft to do it in.

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/

All in all, this is an idea that should be canned immediately before additional funds are wasted on it. If our authorities have a hole burning in their pockets and want to get rid of $5 million smackers anyway, might I suggest finishing the airports on Tinian and Rota where sizeable populations live and where reasonable numbers of tourists and residents might be expected to fly in and out. Tinian needs an ILS and a fuel farm to begin using its already expensive runway. Rota, will begin taking in charter flights and, as gaming causes the islands economy to take off, more scheduled flights will be necessary, both of which will require upgrades to the existing Rota airport.

Spend the money where it will make us some money. Not on a crackpot (did I say pot?) idea to build an airport on Pagan. ("Klingons now arriving at gate 15. Klingons now arriving at gate 15. Please be sure to secure your phasers and tricorders to prevent terrorist access…." Fade to a waiting line of the only two passengers being checked out by six TSA agents, an x-ray machine and a big bomb-sniffing dog.)

■ ■ ■

Bomb Me up Scotty

A B-2 Stealth bomber crashed on Guam a few days ago. The pilots got out safely, that's the most important thing. The plane, however, is totaled. An accident investigation is underway. They will figure out the cause and make recommendations. The oldest B-2s are now about 20 years old but even so the technology is cutting edge.

B-2s are based on the dream of Jack Northrop of the Lockheed (and later Northrop Aviation) company 60 years ago to build a flying wing. Jack actually began work on the first of his flying wings in 1928 and wound up building large jet-powered versions 20 years later (YB-49s). Some say politics killed the revolutionary design back then. The dream, now finally actualized, was to make planes with less aerodynamic drag and more payload capacity. Why have all that other stuff like tails and fuselages hanging off the wing if the wing itself could be made to fly, went Mr. Northrop's reasoning.

See FLYING on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A solution to the island's power problem?

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Iconoclast & Raconteur

Editor's note: The author's career has spanned more than half a century and involved many different undertakings—but never as a humorist. His experience with electrical energy dates back to one high school summer when he worked as a meter reader and later a brief time after college at the New London Naval Submarine Base at Groton, Conn.

I often wonder at what point will the price of a barrel of oil make residing on Pacific islands simply untenable for many? That point must not be far away for some at the present rate of oil price increases.

We have all read the many suggested solutions for Saipan's power generating problems—some serious, others, dare I say, hare-brained and cockamamie concepts.

These have included the use of a land-based atomic power plant, geothermal conversion on a Northern island with energy transferred through cables south to Saipan, the lapping action of waves as the tide ebbs and flows, ocean thermal energy conversion, coal-fired generators (my favorite alternate); solar, wind, even bio-gas fuels. However, considering that nothing has come of any of the above to date except talk—and casting modesty aside—may I suggest still another possibility to add to the list which has thus far been overlooked.

Recall that in September 1992 after Hurricane Iniki pounded the island of Kauai, Hawaii the U. S. submarine SSN *Indianapolis* #697 successfully transferred power from its nuclear reactor to "jump start" the Lihue power grid. And no one got shocked. Therein is the solution to the island's power problem! It works like this: reactor-generated steam drives a turbine that produces electricity. A simple concept.

My idea is for CUC executives to travel to Murmansk, Russia and from there journey to the Dvina Gulf where government officials can make an offer to purchase a used, mothballed Russian nuclear submarine. After the acquisition of the sub they can arrange to have the vessel towed to Saipan where its atomic reactor can be hooked up to supply energy to the island's power grid just as the Indianapolis did at Kauai. The NMI should purchase a submarine without the missiles—it will be cheaper and safer. You certainly don't want to be on the western side of the island should the sub's reactor blow up with a missile aboard—that could not only be rather loud but quite messy as well.

I recommend CUC bid on an SSBN, Type 941, TK20 long range ballistic submarine built around 1989 at the Severodvinsk Shipyard. Designed to operate at 400 meters at 25 knots submerged, the monster displaces 48,000 tons and is 175 meters in length which is about the length of two American football fields. Its displacement is slightly less than that of the 52,000 ton *Titanic* or the 76,000 ton *Queen Mary 2* to give you some idea. The sub normally accommodates 20 ballistic missiles of the RSM, 52 type—but these can be left behind in Russia.

A substantial sum of money can be saved by removing the missiles from their firing bays before towing to Saipan. I can't imagine a scenario where the Commonwealth government would ever need the missiles (but you never know).

This man-made "*Kraken* of the deep" has two pressurized water reactors, model O-K, 650 with reactor cores generating 190 megawatts of power. CUC's 24 generators of varying sizes, when functioning, have a combined capacity of 116 MW but only 69 MW is usually available with the peak load of about 64-65 MW when the moon is bright and fingers crossed.

Since the reactor and the propulsion system are used to push the submarine through the water and that movement dissipates the heat generated by the reactors, I suggest that discharge flanges be placed on the auxiliary seawater cooling system. This discharged hot water, as it enters the lagoon, will assist in introducing an entirely new species of genetically engineered "hot water" fish and related marine life. And while I have been told that the fish will probably glow in the dark, my scientific consultants, all college graduates with BA degrees have advised that there is absolutely no possibility of radiation contamination to anyone. They believe this could be a new aquatic tourist attraction—visitors will love it.

As with any mechanical device certain safety measures must be practiced including monitoring the condition of the nuclear fuel in the reactor. There is also the problem of variations in temperature as well as the risk of seawater entering the hull. Corrosion is another problem for "laid-up" submarines. Steps will have to be taken to prevent seawater from entering reactor compartments and pipes and cable ports must be sealed with a special putty. Perhaps the new, so-called "magic putty" as advertised on television would work. It's worth a try and the stuff is cheap—six sticks for $19.95. The TV ads state that if you order now they will double the shipment. Thus, two orders of magic putty can be obtained for the price of one and this will provided material for flanges on both sides of the submarine—or as naval folks are apt to say—on the port and starboard sides.

Since the various dials, gages and levers inside the machine will be labeled in Russian a translator will be required to provide legible instructions in English. You can imagine how confusing the Cyrillic alphabet could be—

"*Nye Trogai Knopki*" or "Don't Touch The Button!"

It also has enough sleeping accommodations to provide barracks for a garment factory. The potential income generated from this source alone can defray the towing cost from Russia to Saipan. Indeed, when the last garment factory closes, the space aboard could be used as an emergency typhoon shelter or—should the need ever arise—to accommodate hotel overflow when better days return. But those are all secondary benefits.

Not to be overlooked is the Federal Job Partnership Training Act to provide training in the operation of a nuclear reactor. All it requires is being taught how to monitor a few dials and switches, check radiation levels and perhaps see in the dark if trainees start to glow. Perhaps a two-week training program financed by the Interior Department could be arranged. They might even provide financing for the submarine—it doesn't hurt to ask. Cohen said he wants to help.

Of course, great and innovative ideas are never fully accepted at first. There are always naysayers who will find something to complain about. They will cite, 'that big black behemoth sitting in the lagoon will spoil the sunsets and the panoramic view." I say, "not to worry—it can be painted blue (or even yellow)." Be thankful, as with the proverbial iceberg, three-fourths will remain hidden under the surface and out of sight. This alone will contribute to a substantial savings in paint.

I've done all I can to help solve the power problem from a distance. As my dear, sweet ol' granny once said, "Billy, you can lead a horse to water but after that you can't make it do a damn thing unless he's thirsty." A suitable analogy for my power idea—at least I think so.

I recommend the Commonwealth Port Authority share responsibility with CUC for operating this "floating generator" as they have a good track record for efficient operation. Besides there may be a need to control the ingress and egress of maneuvering cargo vessels at the port due to the size of the submarine and the rather small port area.

Friends, I do believe in being realistic as all good things require a degree of effort. There are two major unknowns to my creative solution and these are: the reaction of COMNAVMAR and the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The former may want the right to conduct periodic inspections and may wonder why CUC didn't "Buy American." There may be something patriotic about that—"beating swords into plow shares" and all that, (Isaiah 2:4). There may also be an added advantage in purchasing a pre-owned American nuclear submarine if the price is right, particularly since a naval facility is situated on nearby Guam in the event a supply of "heavy water" becomes necessary. You may remember from your tenth grade chemistry class that heavy water is used in certain types of nuclear reactors where it acts as a neutron moderator to slow the particles down so they can react more efficiently with the uranium in the reactor. Do not confuse heavy water with CUC's brackish piped water. While neither should be consumed by humans in large quantities, there's still a big difference when it comes to use in a nuclear fission reactor.

The Corps of Engineers may require the equivalent of a marine parking permit for the use of the harbor. For a resolution of the above two issues, I leave to elected authorities to solve. I would imagine there would not be too much opposition from EPA since there would be no visible discharge into the atmosphere as is the case with oil or coal—but if it did start to smoke, run like hell.

At that point the availability of lights at night; federal control of immigration; minimum wage issues; 24 hour, islandwide potable water; Article XII; Congressional representation, even E.D.—none of it will matter. There may even be a brief—a very brief—longing for the good ol' days with CUC.

Letters to the Editor

Exodus of nurses

This letter to the editor is in response to a news article in the *Marianas Variety* on Feb. 21, 2008 regarding Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres' (R-Saipan, Committee chairman on Health) drafted bill that proposes to give the Department of Public Health the authority to hire psychiatrists and pharmacists.

As a concerned resident of this beautiful island, I'm just wondering if the said bill specifically gives the Department of Public Health the authority to hire psychiatrists and pharmacists only? How about other staff like nurses? If it doesn't, then I suggest our good Representative DLG Torres to consider revising the bill as there will be an exodus of these skilled nurses probably before the year ends.

I know for a fact that majority of the staff nurses at CHC, especially the overseas Filipino workers, applied in Australia which offers better salary, benefits and immigration status. And the entire application process will only take about three to five months. For me this is quite alarming, because sooner or later, there might be no more nurses left to take care of us when we're sick.

Canary Miguel
via e-mail

Kudos to Tina

Tina Sablan's stance against the legislator's practice on the use of public funds for "donations" should be applauded! The solicitation of public financial and material help from elected officials has been ongoing for so many years. It is a practice that needs to stop and it is about time that someone publicly talks about it. Your bold stance on this issue, Ms. Sablan, is certainly commendable! Keep up the honest and great work!

Evelyn Ridgeway
Yigo, Guam

FLYING

From Page 10

Fast forward to the early 80s when Northrop-Grumman got a contract from the Air Force to try it again. The resulting B-2 bomber's first flight was in 1989. Twenty-one have been built. They have played major roles in the 'smart' bombing of Yugoslavia and later during the early phases of the current Iraq war.

B-2s cost one billion, two hundred million dollars ($1,200,000,000) each. Now that is a fair amount of cash-ola by any standards. I don't know about you but I have a hard time wrapping my brain around just how big a billion really is. I know that if I am making $1,000 a day ($365,000 per year) I am doing pretty well. (Heck, with a thousand a day we could turn on the aircon in the living room again!). If I spent the whole thousand every single day, it would take me over three thousand years to blow the loot. Yep, at a grand a day I would have had to start 1,279 years before the birth of Christ to finish spending the money it takes to build one stealth bomber by today. The good old USA has 20 of them left (plus the smoldering ruin at Anderson AFB in Guam). You have to flip a lot of burgers to pay out that much in taxes.

Nowadays we use them to show our presence and enhance our security around the globe. Not to mention strike terror into the hearts of those souls on the ground when one of those smart bombs comes blasting though their window unannounced. B-2s are just one weapon in the U.S. arsenal, but it is a most formidable one. Imagine being attacked by an airplane you can't see coming. We've come a long way, technology wise, since the B-29s that used to take off from Tinian and Saipan.

■ ■ ■

By the way, if you like airplanes, Saipan history and a good story, try reading *Rain of Fire B-29s Over Japan, 1945*, by Charles L. Phillips, Jr. Colonel USAF (Ret.). It will soon be available at the bookstore at American Memorial Park and possibly at the Museum of History and Culture. It is a fascinating and vivid, firsthand tale of the men and machines that flew from here on Saipan to Japan during WWII. The book can also be ordered from the publisher online at http://www.specialbooks.com/. I am reading it now and find it very entertaining and very informative. I recommend it highly.

■ ■ ■

Quote of the week: However far you travel, you will never find the girl who smiles out at you from the travel brochure. —Unknown source

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲81° ▼75°	▲82° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲80° ▼74	▲80° ▼73°

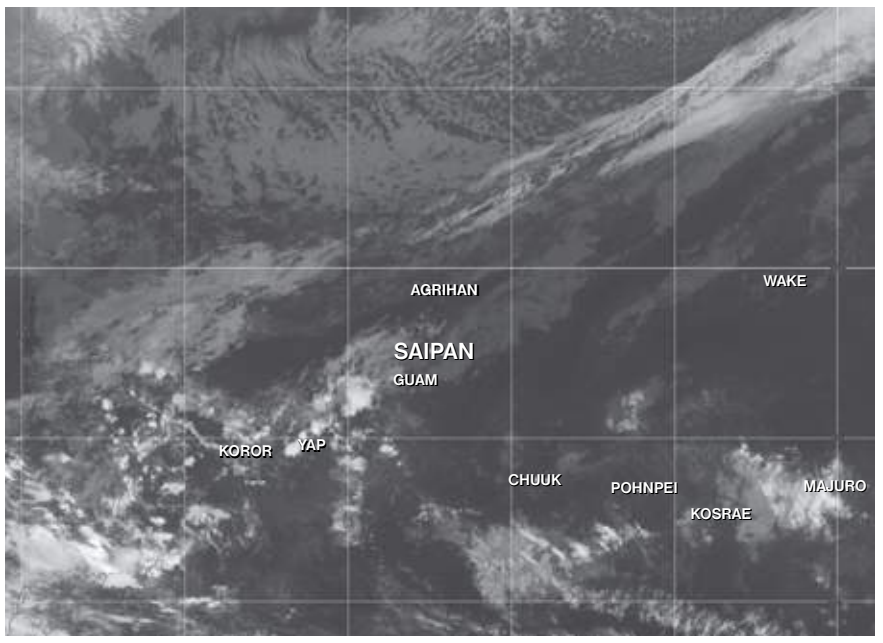
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84	▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Majuro	Cloudy	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼59
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼27
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼55
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼67
London	Cloudy	▲54	▼38
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼53
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲71	▼52
Miami	Cloudy	▲86	▼67
New York	Rain	▲43	▼34
Osaka	Rain/Snow	▲45	▼31
Paris	Showers	▲48	▼42
Pusan	Snow	▲45	▼26
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼49
Salem	Cloudy	▲57	▼40
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼48
Seoul	Snow	▲36	▼23
Tokyo	Rain	▲47	▼35
Washington, DC	Rain	▲52	▼35

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, FEB. 25, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A northeast to southwest oriented shear line runs from 25N162E to 14N147E to near Guam to 13N142E. Scattered showers are occurring along and up to 120 miles north of the shear line. A surface trough near Yap is associated with scattered showers within 200 miles of a line from 9N135E to 15N143E. A cold front extends southwestward from 25N157E to 19N150E then continues as a shear line through Agrihan to beyond 130E at 14N. Scattered showers are occurring along and up to 200 miles northwest of the cold front and the shear line. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers near Kwajalein between 4N and 9N from 164E to 170E. Scattered showers are found south of Chuuk between the equator and 5N from 147E to 157E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
04:43AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
10:28AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
05:32PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
11:43PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:37AM	6:24PM
Wednesday	6:36AM	6:24PM
Thursday	6:35AM	6:24PM
Friday	6:35AM	6:24PM
Saturday	6:35AM	6:25PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:37PM	09:32AM
Wednesday	11:28PM	10:11AM
Thursday		10:54AM
Friday	12:20AM	11:40AM
Saturday	01:13AM	12:30PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 15, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Saipan-Shanghai			
MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Shanghai-Saipan			
MU 589	8:05pm	3:00am+1	1,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,687.200
Up 42.700
(+0.76%)

HONG KONG
23,330.02
Up 24.98
(+0.11%)

JAKARTA
2,752.1321
Up 10.951
(+0.40%)

TOKYO
13,752.59
Up 252.13
(+1.87%)

K. LUMPUR
1,369.48
Down 25.28
(-1.81%)

MANILA
3,080.24
Down 95.82
(-3.02%)

SINGAPORE
3,064.94
Up 16.30
(+0.53%)

SEOUL
1,707.72
Up 21.27
(+1.26%)

BANGKOK
835.04
Up 8.18
(+0.99%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,381.02
+96.72

NASDAQ
2,303.35
+3.57

S&P
1,353.11
+10.58

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.082
British Pound	0.5085
Canadian Dollar	1.0117
Chinese Renmbi	7.1438
Euro	0.675
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7953
Indian Rupee	39.995
Indonesian Rupiah	9170.5
Japanese Yen	107.335
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2165
New Zealand Dollar	1.2374
Philippine Peso	40.675
Singapore Dollar	1.4053
South Korean Won	947.55
Swiss Franc	1.0874
Taiwan Dollar	31.264
Thailand Baht	31.03

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

States dealing with tough budget times

WASHINGTON (AP)—Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire should be celebrating her state's robust economy and record exports. Yet sagging tax collections are lowering an estimated budget surplus by $400 million.

In this slow economy, states are struggling. People are spending less and state governments are taking in fewer dollars.

The financial bottom line is a top worry for many governors in discussions as their annual meeting about paying for public works and energy projects.

"Everything's been going great for us and now the national downturn has slowed us up," said Gregoire, a Democrat.

As many as 18 states have deficits, totaling $14 billion in the current budget, and 20 forecast spending shortfalls for 2009 - $34 billion when combined.

It is so bad that some governors are debating whether to pressure Congress for a second economic aid plan; this one would focus on upgrading roads, bridges and sewer systems.

"Stimulus that would focus upon infrastructure would be both great for jobs but also would really speak to a need that we're seeing around the country," Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine of Virginia said on "Fox News Sunday."

Governors cite a variety of factors for their economic woes: proposed new federal rules to limit Medicaid spending; relying too much on one-time sources of money, such as payments from the 1998 national settlement with major tobacco companies; and the sluggish economy.

"The hardest thing I'm going to have to do is face foster-care parents, disabled adults and children," said Gov. John Baldacci, D-Maine. In his state, there are back-to-back forecasts of revenue shortfalls of about $200 million.

Topping the list of troubled states is California. Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger faces a deficit as high as $16 billion.

"For a lot of the folks they're either there and it's really awful, like California, or they're worried it's going to happen to them," said Scott Pattison, executive director of the National Association of State Budget Officers.

"Tough, very tough," is how Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle characterized his state's problems, which include a $600 million shortfall.

"We're going to have make cuts, we're going to have to defer some things we were intending to do, put some things off that we wanted to get done," he said.

Elsewhere:

■ In Rhode Island, Republican Gov. Don Carcieri is proposing reducing the state's work force by 1,000 to help address an estimated $385 million shortfall next year. He says the situation is the worst in memory.

■ In Kentucky, newly elected Gov. Steve Beshear, a Democrat, entered office to a $430 million shortfall this year and an additional $930 million shortfall forecast over the two-year budget cycle beginning July 1.

■ In Arizona, Democratic Gov. Janet Napolitano has proposed new borrowing to build schools and shifting some prison costs to counties to address an estimated shortfall of $1.2 billion.

Companies curtailing travel budgets

NEW YORK (AP)—As the economy cools, companies are starting to shrink their travel budgets - a move likely to put further strain on struggling airlines.

Hotels, car-rental agencies and restaurants, which along with airlines employ roughly 4 percent of U.S. workers, will also feel the pinch.

So far, travel bookings are holding up. But corporate travel managers are taking a more active role in keeping on-the-road spending in check:

■ Employees are increasingly being asked to provide an economic rationale for their trips.

■ Rules that require employees to book the lowest fare, stay in pre-approved hotels or double-up in cars and rooms are being enforced more strictly.

■ Executives are pushing alternatives to face-to-face meetings, including phone- and Web-conferencing.

"They expect you to be smart," said John Flynn, a sales representative for a San Diego health care software company. But while maintaining a tight budget is a priority, so is knowing when it's important to pay clients a personal visit. "There's no replacement for that," Flynn said.

Chicago-based accounting firm Grant Thornton International, for example, has spent the past two years trying to more aggressively reduce travel costs, especially on the administrative side. That has meant shunning expensive regional flights in favor of driving or taking a train, and relying more heavily on online employee-training sessions and video conferences.

Spending, inflation data to hit Wall St.

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street will face a slew of data this week: on Americans' spending, inflation at the producer level, home sales and manufacturing.

So far this year, economic data has been mixed, but worrisome overall, and that has made for a turbulent stock market. And investors are bracing for more of the same - for some time to come.

Last week, the Dow inched up 0.27 percent, the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose a modest 0.23 percent and the Nasdaq composite index dipped 0.79 percent. The three indexes are all down sharply for the year, and there's no sign yet of a true rebound in the stock market.

"Could it fall further? Sure," said Hans Olsen, chief investment officer in JPMorgan's private client services. He noted that particularly troubling news could easily push the S&P back under the 1,300 mark, a level it briefly sunk below in January.

It's possible for the stock market to end the year with decent returns, Olsen said, but "to say we're getting a bottom here might be premature."

Stock markets generally fall 30 percent, peak to trough, during a recession, said Christian Menegatti, lead analyst at the economic and financial Web site RGE Monitor. So it's quite possible, he said, depending on how weak the economy gets this year, for stocks to fall another 15 percent.

The biggest drag on the economy has so far been, of course, the housing market.

AP

Virgin Atlantic's 747 is pushed out of the Virgin Hanger at London's Heathrow Airport to take off to Amsterdam for the first bio-fuel flight by an airline from Britain, Sunday Feb. 24, 2008.

Virgin flies biofueled jet

LONDON (AP)—Virgin Atlantic carried out the world's first flight of a commercial aircraft powered with biofuel on Sunday in an effort to show it can produce less carbon dioxide than normal jet fuels.

Some analysts praised the jumbo jet test flight from London to Amsterdam as a potentially useful experiment. But others criticized it as a publicity stunt and noted scientists are questioning the environmental benefits of biofuels.

"This breakthrough will help Virgin Atlantic to fly its planes using clean fuel sooner than expected," Sir Richard Branson, the airline's president, said before the Boeing 747 flew from London's Heathrow Airport to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport.

He said the flight would provide "crucial knowledge that we can use to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint," he said.

Sunday's flight was partially fueled with a biofuel mixture of coconut and babassu oil in one of its four main fuel tanks. The jet carried pilots and several technicians, but no passengers.

Virgin Atlantic spokesman Paul Charles predicted this biofuel would produce much less CO2 than regular jet fuel, but said it will take weeks to analyze the data from Sunday's flight.

"It's great that somebody like Richard is willing to put some of his billions into an experiment aimed at reducing the climate change impact of aviation," said James Halstead, an airline analyst at the London stockbroker Dawnay Day Lochart.

"But there are a lot of unanswered questions about the usefulness of biofuels in the battle against global warming," he said.

The flight is the latest example of how the world's airlines are jumping on the environmental bandwagon by trying to find ways of reducing aviation's carbon footprint.

Calif. McDonald's tries feng shui theme

HACIENDA HEIGHTS, Calif. (AP) -- The only familiar signs at the McDonald's in this large Asian community are the golden arches, the drive-through and the menu. Gone are the plastic furniture, Ronald McDonald and the red and yellow palette that has defined the world's largest hamburger chain. Leather seats, earth tones, bamboo plants and water trickling down glass panels have taken their place.

The makeover elements are meant to help diners achieve happiness and fortune - whether they realize it or not.

That's because the restaurant was redesigned using the principles of feng shui, the ancient Chinese practice of arranging objects and numbers to promote health, harmony and prosperity.

The concept is an unlikely fit with fast food. But the restaurant's owners say the designs are aimed at creating a soothing setting that will encourage diners to linger over their burgers and fries, and come back again.

The makeover is part of the attempt by McDonald's Corp. in recent years to remodel hundreds of its restaurants to attract more patrons with unique decor and amenities that might entice them stay awhile.

It also fits into McDonald's larger corporate practice of catering to local tastes, such as a fondue-style burger in France or a pita-wrapped "McArabia" sandwich in the Middle East.

Nation

At campus memorial, NIU mourns 5 slain

DEKALB, Ill. (AP) -- The outpouring of aid and sympathy after a deadly shooting at Northern Illinois University should remind those struggling with the tragedy that they are not islands and not alone, the school's president said at a memorial service Sunday.

In honor of the five students killed in the Feb. 14 shooting in a crowded lecture hall, five bouquets of red and white flowers were placed on the stage of the Convocation Center, where the memorial was held. Outside the arena, school officials had posted a banner reading, "Forward, together forward."

"This past week, I have seen despair and I have seen hope," NIU President John G. Peters said near the start of the service. "I have seen deep sorrow of the five victims' families, but I have seen your courage and I have seen your strength."

An hour later, the service ended with audience members asked to turn on small flashlights they were provided. The lights in the arena were turned off while a choir sang the school song.

Tears poured down the cheeks of Elizabeth Darrow, a 21-year-old studying education, behind her glasses as she made her way out of the arena with two friends. She said the memorial brought the shootings home for her.

"It made it more real," she said, sniffling and wiping the tears away. "It helps to process it. It's a reality check."

AP

Mourners Doris Kalinoski, left, and Addie Meiser, right, of Sycamore, Ill., hug near a memorial to the five students who were killed during the Valentines Day shooting at Northern Illinois University in De Kalb, Ill., Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008.

Classes are to resume Monday for the first time since the shooting, in which NIU graduate Steve Kazmierczak opened fire in a classroom, killing five people and injuring 17 before committing suicide.

Early in the service, a photo of each of the slain students was projected on screens around the arena as their names were read aloud. A choir sang the hymn "Take My Hand, Precious Lord."

Thousands of people attended, and overflow viewing areas were set up around the campus, about 65 miles west of Chicago. The memorial was also simulcast to NIU gatherings across the country and in Iraq.

"For all of those who seek healing, your presence here tonight wraps us in a warm embrace and reminds us that we are not alone," Peters told the students and members of the faculty, staff and community in the audience.

NY mom arrested after three kids are found dead

NEW CASSEL, N.Y. (AP) -- A single mother who neighbors said was overwhelmed was accused of murder Sunday after police found her three small children dead in a bed, then tracked her down and arrested her.

Leatrice Brewer, 27, has been charged with multiple counts of murder, Nassau County police said.

"It was a disturbing scene," Detective Lt. Kevin Smith said.

Officers were met at the two-story home by a woman who directed them to a top-floor apartment, where they found the children, Jewell Ward, 6, Michael Demesyeux, 5, and Innocent Demesyeux, 1.

Brewer wasn't home but was found later, said police, who wouldn't reveal where they arrested her. The county medical examiner's office was trying to determine how the children died.

Brewer, who cared for the children alone, had been overwhelmed, neighbors said. Cornisha Robinson said she last week saw Brewer pushing an empty stroller in the street and wondered where the children were.

Clinton assures donors after losses

AMERICA VOTES

BOSTON (AP) -- Attempting to reassure anxious donors, Hillary Rodham Clinton on Sunday outlined a road map she said she will follow to beat Barack Obama in the Ohio and Texas primaries March 4.

Clinton insisted that her campaign is on track and moving forward, despite losing 11 contests to Obama since Feb. 5.

"I am very optimistic and extremely positive about what we're doing as we go forward in these states," Clinton said of Ohio and Texas, two delegate-rich states on which she has pinned the future of her candidacy.

"I hear with increasing frequency, 'Don't give up, you're going to win,'" she said.

The former first lady pledged to continue to stress her differences with Obama on issues including universal health care, and said she will step up her criticism of the Illinois senator's lack of experience in public life.

"We're going to emphasize more and more the experience gap," Clinton told several hundred supporters who had paid at least $500 to attend a Boston fundraiser. "You'll hear a lot about it the next eight days."

The New York senator said the posters voters are bringing to her events indicate that the issue of experience is coming to the forefront.

"When I first started, it was 'You Go Girl,' 'Women Making History,' all about the pioneering nature of my candidacy," Clinton said. Recently, she said, the signs had changed.

Clinton

"In Houston last night, it was, 'We Want Experience, Not An Experiment,' and 'The White House Is No Place for Training Wheels,'" she said.

Clinton blamed her woes in part on unfair press coverage but said she believed Obama had come under increased media scrutiny in recent days. She urged the group to watch the latest episode of "Saturday Night Live," which featured a skit mocking last Thursday's CNN debate as little more than a love fest for Obama.

"People are starting to say, 'Hey, you know, we've got two candidates. We've been a little more focused on one than the other in terms of asking hard questions. Let's start looking at both of them. The voters of this country deserve to have a real election,'" she said.

Democrats seek FEC probe of McCain

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The national Democratic party wants campaign finance regulators to investigate whether Sen. John McCain would violate money-in-politics laws by withdrawing from the primary election's public finance system.

McCain, who had been entitled to $5.8 million in federal funds for the primary, has decided to bypass the system so he can avoid spending limits between now and the GOP's national convention in September.

Federal Election CommissionChairman David Mason notified McCain last week that he can only withdraw from public financing if he answers questions about a campaign loan and obtains approval from four members of the six-member commission. Such approval is doubtful in the short term because the commission has four vacancies and cannot convene a quorum.

McCain

"John McCain poses as a reformer but seems to think reforms apply to everyone but him," Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean said Sunday.

The DNC said it plans to formally seek an FEC investigation Monday.

Part of the issue centers on a loan McCain obtained late last year. The loan was not directly secured by McCain's potential access to public funds. But his agreement with the bank required him to reapply for public funds if he lost early primary contests and to use that money as collateral.

McCain's lawyer, former FEC Chairman Trevor Potter, has said McCain did not encumber any money that he would have received from the federal treasury.

ACROSS THE NATION

$270M Mega Millions ticket sold in Ga.

PORTAL, Ga. (AP) -- People in this town have been chattering since Georgia Lottery officials confirmed that the winning ticket for the $270 million Mega Millions jackpot drawing was purchased at a local convenience store. The ticket for Friday night's drawing was sold at Flash Foods 70, said Tandi Reddick, Georgia Lottery spokeswoman. However, the Georgia Lottery can't officially confirm a winner until the ticket bearing all the right numbers is presented for verification, and lottery offices were closed until Monday, Reddick said Saturday. "We're very excited - it's caused a buzz in this small town," said Billy Hodges, general manager of Clyde's Market 70, which he said formerly was called Flash Foods 70.

Toll from sugar plant blast climbs to 11

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) -- Another burn patient has died of injuries suffered in an explosion and fire at a sugar refinery, bringing the death toll to 11, officials said Sunday. Two weeks after the blast at the Imperial Sugar plant in Port Wentworth, 12 other patients remain in critical condition at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta. Two are in serious condition. A 15th patient, whose name was not released, died Saturday evening, said Beth Frits of the Burn Center. A memorial had been held earlier in the day for the other victims, the 10th of whom died Friday.

A spry Farrakhan sings Obama's praises

CHICAGO (AP) -- In his first major public address since a cancer crisis, Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan said Sunday that presidential candidate Barack Obama is the "hope of the entire world" that the U.S. will change for the better. The 74-year-old Farrakhan, addressing an estimated crowd of 20,000 people at the annual Saviours' Day celebration, never outrightly endorsed Obama but spent most of the nearly two-hour speech praising the Illinois senator. "This young man is the hope of the entire world that America will change and be made better," he said. "This young man is capturing audiences of black and brown and red and yellow. If you look at Barack Obama's audiences and look at the effect of his words, those people are being transformed."

Relative complains after death on flight

NEW YORK (AP) -- An American Airlines passenger died after a flight attendant told her he couldn't give her any oxygen and then tried to help her with faulty equipment, including an empty oxygen tank, a relative said. The airline confirmed the flight death and said medical professionals had tried to save the passenger, Carine Desir, who was returning home to Brooklyn from Haiti. Desir, who had heart disease, died of natural causes, medical examiner's office spokeswoman Ellen Borakove said Sunday.

Asia

RP military, police stand by Arroyo

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Military and police generals pledged their support for the embattled Philippine president Monday as a deepening corruption scandal unleashed a fresh wave of nationwide protests on the anniversary of a "people power" revolt.

Military and police chiefs ruled out a repeat of the iconic 1986 uprising, when hundreds of thousands of unarmed protesters faced off against tanks and troops to end Ferdinand Marcos' 22-year dictatorship.

AP

Philippine Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., sixth from left front row, and Philippine National Police Chief Director-General Avelino Razon, seventh from left front row, link arms with other major service commanders during their "unity walk" following the 22nd anniversary celebration of the "People Power" revolution at EDSA suburban Quezon city, north of Manila Monday Feb. 25, 2008.

Scattered crowds of demonstrators were out on the streets again Monday—left-wing protesters, Roman Catholic church-backed groups, students, teachers and civil society activists—demanding President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's resignation at rallies held in 15 cities.

They have been galvanized by anti-corruption hearings at the Senate that exposed an anomalous telecommunications contract that allegedly involved kickbacks to senior officials and the president's husband.

All those involved have denied the allegations. But Arroyo caused more stir Saturday by acknowledging she was warned last April about possible corruption in the US$330 million (€223 million) contract with Chinese telecommunications giant ZTE Corp.—but signed it anyway, only to scrap it five months later.

She has ordered an investigation.

In Manila, military and police commanders appeared at a joint news conference in a move to dispel swirling coup rumors. "This is our expression ... that our countrymen should not be concerned with rumors of destabilization," said military chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

The military played a key role in the 1986 uprising as well as in 2001, when commanders withdrew support from President Joseph Estrada as thousands took to streets to topple him on corruption charges. Arroyo, Estrada's vice president, took over the presidency and won her own six-year term in 2004, but critics accused her of cheating.

A losing bidder in the broadband project has testified in the Senate that Arroyo's husband and the country's elections chief—who has since quit—threatened him to make him abandon his proposal because they were allegedly promised huge commissions.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Sunday he would urge Senate committees investigating the deal to look into Arroyo's statement that she knew the deal was suspect and assess whether she violated anti-graft laws.

South Korea's new president takes office

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Hard-charging former businessman Lee Myung-bak took the oath of office as South Korea's new president Monday, vowing to revitalize the economy, strengthen relations with the U.S. and deal with nuclear-armed North Korea.

AP

South Korean new President Lee Myung-bak takes an oath during the president inauguration ceremony at National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Feb. 25, 2008.

The conservative, pro-U.S. Lee, nicknamed "The Bulldozer" for the can-do image he honed as a construction company CEO and later as mayor of Seoul, was sworn into office in a colorful outdoor ceremony at the National Assembly in the presence of tens of thousands of onlookers.

"Economic revival is our most urgent task," Lee said in his inauguration speech.

Lee also vowed to boost ties with the United States and called for summits with North Korea as needed, according to an advance copy of the speech.

Lee's presidency ends a decade of liberal rule that critics say hindered economic growth, was too soft on communist North Korea and fomented tension with traditional close ally Washington.

Officials and ordinary citizens attended the inauguration in near-freezing temperatures, along with foreign dignitaries including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda.

Lee, the 10th man to be South Korea's president and the first to come from a business background, overwhelmingly won December's election on a promise to make the economy his top priority.

He has promised to achieve annual growth of 7 percent, double the country's per capita income to $40,000 over a decade and make South Korea one of the world's top seven economies. He calls this his "747" pledge, meant to evoke a soaring jumbo jet.

NKorea readying for NY Philharmonic

BEIJING (AP)—North Korea was tearing down anti-American posters that line the streets of Pyongyang in preparation for the New York Philharmonic's unprecedented visit, the ensemble's president said Sunday on the eve of departure.

The musicians said they hoped personal contacts with North Koreans could help bring the countries closer. But some also worried their performance Tuesday wouldn't change anything, and instead be misused for propaganda in the communist country that technically remains at war with the U.S.

The Philharmonic's president and executive director, Zarin Mehta, said North Korea had met the group's requests that the largest possible audience hear the concert. The performance will be staged in a larger hall and will be broadcast live on radio and TV.

The concert will feature Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 and George Gershwin's "An American in Paris." Among the encores planned is the Korean folk song "Arirang," beloved in both the North and South.

Philharmonic musicians will also hold master classes for North Korean students and play chamber music with members of the North's State Symphony Orchestra.

"There's going to be major interaction with their musical community, and that's what we wanted to do," Mehta told The Associated Press in Beijing, where the orchestra played before its 48-hour trip to the North. "We didn't want to go in and do a closed little concert and drive out."

Mehta said a diplomat based in Pyongyang who briefed the orchestra told them the North was removing some of the anti-American propaganda earlier seen on the streets of the capital, Pyongyang.

The content of the posters removed was not immediately known. But such posters have portrayed iron-faced North Korean soldiers with rifles poised to strike cowering Americans or crushing Washington's Capitol dome, the U.S. flag in tatters.

Researchers say bugs could ease famine

CHIANG MAI, Thailand (AP)—Crickets, caterpillars and grubs are high in protein and minerals and could be an important food source during droughts and other emergencies, according to scientists.

"I definitely think they can assist," said German biologist V.B. Meyer-Rochow, who regularly eats insects and wore a T-shirt with a Harlequin longhorn beetle to a U.N.-sponsored conference this month on promoting bugs as a food source.

Three dozen scientists from 15 countries gathered in this northern Thailand city, home to several dozen restaurants serving insects and other bugs. Some of their proposals were more down to earth than others.

A Japanese scientist proposed bug farms on spacecraft to feed astronauts, noting that it would be more practical than raising cows or pigs. Australian, Dutch and American researchers said more restaurants are serving the critters in their countries.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization estimates 1,400 species of insects and worms are eaten in almost 90 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Researchers at the conference detailed how crickets and silk worms are eaten in Thailand, grubs and grasshoppers in Africa and ants in South America.

"In certain places with certain cultures with a certain level of acceptance, then insects can very well be seen as part of the solution" to hunger, said Patrick Durst, a Bangkok-based senior forestry officer at the FAO.

The challenge, experts said, is organizing unregulated, small bug food operations in many countries so they can supplement the food that aid agencies provide. The infrastructure to raise, transport and market bugs is almost nonexistent in most countries.

Pakistan militants call for dialogue

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Taliban-style militants battling government forces in northwest Pakistan said Sunday they wanted dialogue with the winners of parliamentary elections and urged the new leadership to abandon President Pervez Musharraf's war on terror.

The party of slain opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, which will lead the new government, called for an end to military operations against autonomy-minded insurgents in another restive area - the southwestern province of Baluchistan where the U.S.-backed Afghan government believes the Taliban leadership may be hiding.

Opposition parties trounced Musharraf's allies in Feb. 18 parliamentary elections - widely seen as a public repudiation of Musharraf's policies including his alliance with Washington in the war on terror.

The election results have fueled calls for Musharraf to step down both inside and outside Pakistan. Two U.S. senators on Sunday urged a "graceful exit" from power for the unpopular president, but stopped short of supporting efforts to remove him from office.

"I firmly believe if they do not focus on old grudges - and there's plenty in Pakistan - and give him a graceful way to move," then it could happen, said Joe Biden, a Democrat from Delaware who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison echoed the sentiment. Both spoke on ABC television's "This Week" after meeting with Musharraf.

Maulvi Umar, spokesman for the Islamic militant Tehrik-e-Taliban, said his group welcomed the victory of anti-Musharraf parties and was anxious to talk with them about ways to bring peace to northwestern tribal areas, where U.S. officials believe Osama bin Laden himself may be hiding.

World

Cuba's communist system unshaken

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba's parliament named Raul Castro president on Sunday, ending nearly 50 years of rule by his brother Fidel but leaving the island's communist system unshaken.

In a surprise move, officials bypassed younger candidates to name a 77-year-old revolutionary leader, Jose Ramon Machado, to Cuba's No. 2 spot - apparently assuring the old guard that no significant political changes will be made soon.

The retirement of the ailing 81-year-old president caps a career in which he frustrated efforts by 10 U.S. presidents to oust him.

Raul Castro, 76, stressed that his brother remains "commander in chief" even if he is not president and proposed to consult with Fidel on all major decisions of state - a motion approved by acclamation.

Though the succession was not likely to bring a major shift in the communist government policies that have put Cuba at odds with the United States, many Cubans were hoping it would open the door to modest economic reforms that might improve their daily lives.

Raul Castro indicated at least one change is being contemplated: the revaluation of the Cuban peso, the national currency most people use to pay for government services such as utilities, public transportation and the small amount charged for their monthly food ration.

Cubans complain that government salaries averaging a little more than $19 a month do not cover basic necessities - something Raul Castro acknowledged in a major speech last year. But he said any change would have to be gradual to "prevent traumatic and incongruent effects."

AP

Raul Castro gestures as he attends a session of the National Assembly in Havana, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008.

In his first speech as president, Raul Castro suggested that the Communist Party as a whole would take over the role long held by Fidel, who formally remains its leader. The new president said the nation's sole legal party "is the directing and superior force of society and the state."

"This conviction has particular importance when the founding and forging generation of the revolution is disappearing," he added.

The U.S. has said the change from one Castro to another would not be significant, calling it a "transfer of authority and power from dictator to dictator light."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Sunday Cubans have a right "to choose their leaders in democratic elections" and urged the government "to begin a process of peaceful, democratic change by releasing all political prisoners, respecting human rights, and creating a clear pathway towards free and fair elections."

Shiite pilgrims targeted in attacks

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up among Shiite pilgrims taking a break Sunday during their days-long march to a shrine for a major religious gathering. The blast killed at least 40 people and wounded 60, making it one of the deadliest this year.

It was the second attack of the day against pilgrims traveling to the holy city of Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad. Hours earlier, extremists attacked another group with guns and grenades in the predominantly Sunni Baghdad neighborhood of Dora, killing three and wounding 36, police said.

The suicide bomber targeted travelers near Iskandariyah, as authorities have fortified the capital and Karbala to keep away extremists. Those are the main areas where rituals are performed to commemorate the end of the 40-day mourning period for Imam Hussein, one of Shiite Islam's most revered figures.

Major Shiite commemorations have frequently been targeted in the past by suspected Sunni insurgents led by al-Qaida in Iraq in their drive to stoke sectarian violence. The attacks have prompted U.S. and Iraqi forces to increase the number of checkpoints, and impose car bans and other measures in major Shiite cities to protect the worshippers.

Recent commemorations - including the Ashoura festival in mid-January to mark Imam Hussein's death - have passed without major bloodshed amid an overall decline in violence across Iraq.

But the pilgrims who walk for days to reach the shrine of Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad who died in a seventh century battle near Karbala, are vulnerable despite the increased security.

The suicide bomber who struck on Sunday detonated his explosives belt at a tent providing food and drinks to the travelers on the southern outskirts of Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of Baghdad. The U.S. military and local authorities said the attack on a two-lane highway outside a residential area killed at least 40 people wounded 60 others.

Kosovo marks first week of independence

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP)—Kosovo marked its first week of independence in quiet celebration Sunday, as angry Serbs protested in the fledgling nation's tense north and in capitals across Europe.

The Russian envoy to NATO, meanwhile, unleashed a torrent of criticism on countries that recognized Kosovo's split from ally Serbia, including the United States.

Up to 1,000 people protested peacefully in the ethnically divided northern town of Kosovska Mitrovica. Protesters at the demonstration - the smallest in seven days of rallies - listened to a Serbian rock band playing on a stage decorated with a poster of Russian President Vladimir Putin and a sign reading: "Russia Help!"

Russia has staunchly supported Serbia's resistance and has declared Kosovo's independence illegal. Putin's likely successor - First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedyev - planned to visit the Serbian capital Belgrade on Monday.

AP

A crowd of several hundred Serbs gather in front of the European Union institutions in Brussels, chanting and holding Orthodox pictures and placards to protest against the independency of Kosovo, Sunday Feb. 24, 2008.

The past two days of muted protests in Kosovska Mitrovica followed Thursday's rioting in Belgrade, where demonstrators stormed the U.S. Embassy and set part of it ablaze.

The U.S. ambassador in Belgrade demanded Serb leaders ensure there would be no future violence against diplomatic missions. "I'm very angry at what happened. It had better not happen again," Ambassador Cameron Munter told The Associated Press Sunday.

Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo remained jubilant with their new status.

"People keep celebrating every night," Artan Dedushaj said. "This is something that all Albanians have waited centuries for - and changes will come soon."

In the capital, Pristina, people gathered around a graffiti-covered sculpture of letters spelling out "NEWBORN." One person had scribbled in English: "We love you Kosovo!"

The vast majority of Kosovo's population is ethnic Albanian. Serbs represent just 10 percent of the region's 2 million people, but they view Kosovo as the cradle of their culture and of their Orthodox Christian faith.

Turkish helicopter down in Iraq

CUKURCA, Turkey (AP)—A Turkish helicopter crashed in Iraq and eight soldiers were killed during a cross-border ground operation against Kurdish rebels, who planted booby traps on the bodies of their slain comrades, Turkey's military said Sunday.

The guerrillas said they shot down a Turkish military helicopter near the Turkish-Iraqi border.

Turkey's military said technicians were inspecting the wreck to determine why the helicopter crashed near the border. It was not clear if any of the reported troop casualties were on board.

Their deaths bring the Turkish toll since the start of the incursion Thursday to 15, the military said on its Web site.

Thirty-three rebels were killed in Sunday's fighting, bringing the rebel death toll since Thursday to 112, according to the armed forces.

The incursion is the first confirmed Turkish military ground operation in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

The rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, are fighting for autonomy in predominantly Kurdish southeastern Turkey and have carried out attacks on Turkish targets from bases in the semiautonomous Kurdish region of northern Iraq. The conflict started in 1984 and has claimed as many as 40,000 lives.

Turkey has assured that the operation would be limited to attacks on rebels. The United States and European Union consider the PKK a terrorist group.

"It is only an operation geared to cleansing the terrorist camps," Turkey's prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said Sunday in an address to the youth branch of his ruling party.

Christofias wins Cyprus presidency

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Communist-rooted Dimitris Christofias won Cyprus' crucial presidential runoff Sunday, and supporters flooded onto the streets of Nicosia waving Cypriot flags and banners of Che Guevara.

Final results showed Christofias won with 53.36 of the vote, against 46.64 for conservative rival Ioannis Kasoulides, who conceded defeat and pledged his support to his rival in efforts to reunify the divided country.

Both had vowed to move quickly to restart long-stalled talks to reunify Cyprus, and the election has revived hopes of finding a solution the island's division between a Greek Cypriot south and a breakaway Turkish Cypriot north.

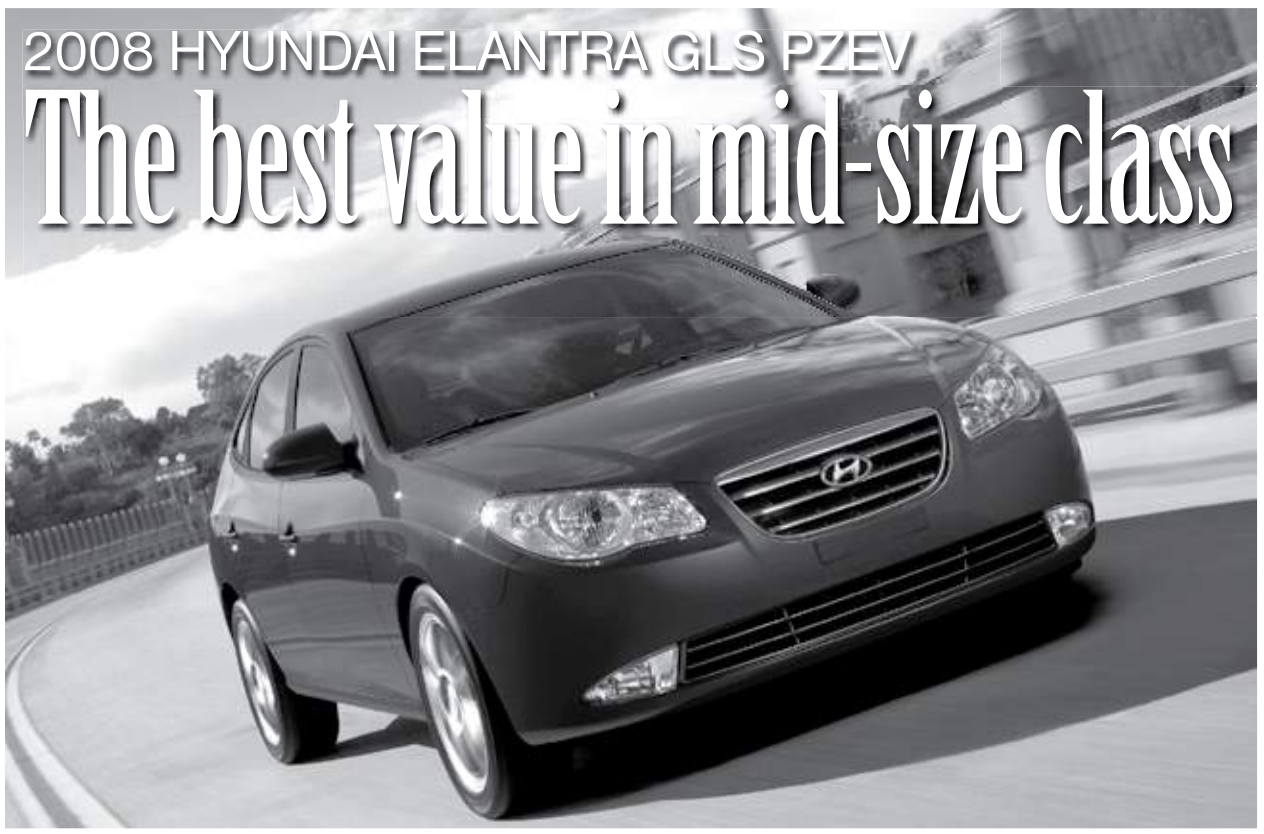
Christofias becomes the European Union's only communist-rooted leader.

He has close ties with the Turkish Cypriot left wing, relations which have raised hopes for quickly restarting long-stalled negotiations with the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state. Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat has said he is ready to resume talks with whoever wins the election.

Reunification of the Greek Cypriot south and the Turkish Cypriot north would remove one of the obstacles to Turkey's efforts to join the European Union. It would also ease strong objections to Kosovo's new independence among Greek Cypriots who fear it would act as a precedent for north Cyprus.

Overdrive

2008 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS PZEV
The best value in mid-size class



THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2008 Hyundai Elantra GLS PZEV does not pretend to be hot or hip but instead presents its credentials as an economy-mobile. Its marketers tout it as the "best value in its class," and they are right.

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

MILL VALLEY, Calif.—It was a trip in memory of the Coast Miwok Indians, the gentle hunter-gatherers who inhabited this place for nearly 5,000 years until the late 18th century, when Western civilization wiped them out along with many of the giant redwoods that once provided bark to cover Miwok huts.

There were no paved roads back then. But there are many now—some of them winding, twisting, arching, running perilously close to cliff edges, leading to the moral equivalent of a tree museum: the Muir Woods National Monument, one of the last surviving groves of primordial California coast redwoods, now protected by the National Park Service.

It was appropriate, under the circumstance, to take a car that was not as harmful to the ecology of the place as Western civilization had been to the Miwok Indians, whose people and culture have been "indirectly eradicated," according to some local historical accounts. I chose the 2008 Hyundai Elantra GLS PZEV—with PZEV being a California designation meaning "partial zero emission vehicle."

I'm puzzled by the concept of something being partially zero. But I suppose it's something like PZIP, which, when applied to the documented history of the Miwok Indians, could stand for Partially Zero Indigenous People.

But I digress.

This is a car column, after all, and this week's subject vehicle, by all conventional definitions, certainly qualifies as a car. It has an in-line, four-cylinder, 132-horsepower engine to power its front-drive wheels. It has four wheels. There also are four side doors and a rear end with a traditional notchback trunk. The transmission in the subject car is a four-speed automatic.

But another characteristic of the Elantra, its size, is more difficult to describe. The car began life in 1991 as a compact that looked and felt like a compact. But largely in response to the growth of American bottoms and torsos, as well as in reaction to automotive rivals such as the Ford Focus, Honda Civic and Toyota Corolla—all of which have been enlarged to accommodate the widening of America—the Elantra has expanded its girth too.

The Elantra now is a mid-size automobile, actually on the lower end of mid-size. That means the new Elantra offers genuine rear-seating comfort for adult passengers. That's good news for most adults who have suffered the agony of a cramped, back-seat ride in a compact car.

Also good is that the Elantra's marketing turns out to be more truth than hype. The car does not pretend to be hot or hip. Instead, it proudly presents its credentials as an economy-mobile. Its marketers tout it as the "best value in its class" and as being a "class above the competition." In both cases, they are right.

The Elantra GLS is a relatively inexpensive, high-quality car with a base price of $13,625. Compare that with base prices for the Ford Focus ($14,705), Honda Civic ($14,810), Suzuki SX4 ($14,770) or Toyota Corolla ($15,250).

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS
There is discernible engine straining and wheezing at speeds in the 60-mph range on low-altitude, straight roads. The car also encounters some breathing difficulties in the mountains.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
There is generally good performance in all categories — a bit better than what many of us have come to expect from economy cars.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
Easily lost in a crowded parking lot. Attach a brightly colored balloon to the antenna.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Elantra is a front-engine, front-wheel-drive economy sedan with four doors and a traditional notchback trunk. There essentially are two trim levels, the tested base GLS and the spiffed-up SE. The PZEV designation is in compliance with the clean-air laws of California, which attempt to be stricter and more effective than the federal government.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
Standard equipment includes a two-liter, in-line, four-cylinder engine that develops 132 horsepower at 6,000 rpm and 133 foot-pounds at 4,600 rpm. The engine can be mated to a five-speed manual or a four-speed automatic transmission.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for five. Maximum luggage capacity is 14.2 cubic feet. The Elantra can be equipped to tow up to 1,500 pounds (for those who are willing to pull a load at the expense of slow going, especially on elevated roads). Fuel capacity is 14 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
The federal government, using 2008 testing procedures, gives it 25 miles per gallon in the city and 33 mpg on the highway, which seems to be right on target at this point of the California drive.

SAFETY
Electronic stability control is standard on the Elantra SE; but it is not available at this writing on the GLS. Standard GLS equipment includes antilock brakes, side and head air bags. This column recommends the SE.

PRICE
Base price on the 2008 Hyundai Elantra GLS PZEV with automatic transmission is $14,625. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $14,217. Price as tested is $16,995, including $1,750 in options and a $620 destination charge. A $1,000 rebate to consumers is available at this writing. Prices sourced from Hyundai, www.edmunds.com and www.cars.com, an affiliate of *The Washington Post.*

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
It gets a strong "buy." Limit your lust for options.

CRUISIN'

1974 VW Beetle

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, I plan to sell my 1974 Volkswagen Beetle, and I am trying to determine a fair price. It has only 97,000 original miles and is in running condition with non-factory installed air conditioning. I purchased this car in December 1974, so it is a one-owner VW Beetle.

It will need some floor pans, as there is rust on the floorboards, but there are no engine problems that I know of, and the paint is great. Attached is a picture of the car. I appreciate your evaluation, as I checked eBay and prices are all over the place. Your input is appreciated.—Elizabeth

A: Elizabeth, you have a very-nice looking Volkswagen. I'd say $2,850 to $3,100 would be a fair price considering the floorboards will need work. Other than that, it's a really nice VW Beetle, especially the paint.

Collector Car Prices Magazine lists a completely restored 1974 Beetle for $8,950, with $5,600 for one that needs no work whatsoever and is in good condition, somewhat like yours without the rusty floorboards. If you can get the floorboards repaired at a fair price, I'd raise the value of your car substantially to $4,500 to $5,000.

Good luck, and let us know if you sell.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send an e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Saturn to bring two-mode hybrid to Vue

By KEN THOMAS
AP WRITER

Saturn, the General Motors brand that has carved out a green image, is trying to distinguish itself in the hybrid market with a compact SUV that gives consumers more choice.

The automaker is unveiling the 2009 Vue Green Line two-mode hybrid, hoping to reach consumers by combining towing capacity with fuel-savings in a small sport utility vehicle. Saturn will be the first brand to offer two hybrid options on the same vehicle, building upon a milder hybrid version of the Vue that was launched in 2007.

"I think some consumers today might be held back if the hybrid is not affordable," Jill Lajdziak, Saturn general manager, said ahead of the Vue's premiere this month at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. "I think we give people the option that you don't have to go broke to go green by offering choice in the marketplace."

Saturn plans to start production in late 2008 of the latest General Motors Corp. vehicle to offer the "two-mode" hybrid system. The technology, developed with Chrysler, Mercedes-Benz and BMW, was introduced last year on the Chevrolet Tahoe and GMC Yukon SUVs and will be appearing on the Chevrolet Silverado pickup and Cadillac Escalade.

The vehicle gives GM another entry into the growing hybrid market. New hybrid registrations increased 35 percent to nearly 290,000 vehicles during the first 10 months of 2007, according to data from R.L. Polk and Co., an auto information and marketing company.

Toyota Motor Corp. has dominated the hybrid market with its Prius, but analysts said the Saturn entry should give GM another chance at cracking the competition.

"A lot of it is 'mine gets better mileage than yours gets.' That's where the bragging rights lie there," said Jack Nerad, executive market analyst for Kelley Blue Book in Irvine, Calif. "To the extent that this (Vue) gets really great mileage and turns in great numbers, which it promises to do, that should stand it in good stead."

The Green Line is expected to provide a 50 percent fuel economy increase compared with non-hybrid versions of the Vue with V6 engines. Final fuel economy figures have not been determined, but the two-mode Vue would likely get about 29 miles per gallon combined, or about 35 mpg on the highway.

Similar to single-mode hybrid systems used by Toyota, Ford Motor Co. and others, two-mode Vues will operate in electric-only mode at low speeds or with a mix of the 3.6 liter V-6 gas engine and electric assistance at higher speeds.

Single-mode systems, however, have heavier motors, making them less ideal for towing. Saturn said the hybrid Vue will have a towing capacity of 3,500 pounds, allowing it to tow a small boat, jet skis or a snowmobile.

Life & Style

Coens 'Country' wins best picture Oscar

AP

Writers Joel Coen and Ethan Coen, right, accept the Oscar for best adapted screenplay for their work on "No Country for Old Men" at the 80th Academy Awards Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008, in Los Angeles.

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Coen brothers have completed their journey from the fringes to Hollywood's mainstream, winning four Academy Awards for "No Country for Old Men," including best picture.

Javier Bardem won for supporting actor in "No Country," which earned Joel and Ethan Coen the best-picture honor as producers, best director and adapted screenplay.

Accepting the directing honor alongside his brother, Joel Coen recalled how they were making films since childhood, including one at the Minneapolis airport called "Henry Kissinger: Man on the Go."

"What we do now doesn't feel that much different from what we were doing then," Joel Coen said. "We're very thankful to all of you out there for continuing to let us play in our corner of the sandbox."

Daniel Day-Lewis won his second best-actor Academy Award on Sunday for the oil-boom epic "There Will Be Blood," while "La Vie En Rose" star Marion Cotillard was a surprise winner for best actress, riding the spirit of Edith Piaf to Oscar triumph over Julie Christie, who had been expected to win for "Away From Her."

While the quirky American Coens led the night, the Oscars had a strong international flavor, with all four acting prizes went to Europeans: Frenchwoman Cotillard, Spaniard Bardem, and Brits Day-Lewis and Tilda Swinton, the supporting-actress winner for "Michael Clayton."

As a raging, conniving, acquisitive petroleum pioneer caught up in California's oil boom of the early 20th century, Day-Lewis won for a part that could scarcely have been more different than his understated role as a writer with severe cerebral palsy in 1989's "My Left Foot."

"My deepest thanks to the academy for whacking me with the handsomest bludgeon in town," Day-Lewis said.

The Coen are mainly known for their original screenplays, making only two films based on adaptations, "No Country" from Pulitzer winner Cormac McCarthy's novel, and "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," loosely inspired by the ancient Greek epic "The Odyssey."

"I think whatever success we've had in this area has been entirely attributable to how selective we are. We've only adapted Homer and Cormac McCarthy," said Joel Coen.

Lewis

Cotillard

Bardem

Swinton

Previous original-screenplay winners for 1996's "Fargo," the Coens came in as the best-picture and directing favorites for "No Country."

The Coens missed out on a chance to make Oscar history—four wins for a single film—when they lost the editing prize, for which they were nominated under the pseudonym Roderick Jaynes.

"The Bourne Ultimatum" won the editing Oscar and swept all three categories in which it was nominated, including sound editing and sound mixing.

"No Country" also lost the cinematography prize, which went to "There Will Be Blood."

Cotillard, the first winner ever for a French-language performance, tearfully thanked her director, Olivier Dahan.

"Maestro Olivier, you rocked my life. You have truly rocked my life," said Cotillard, a French beauty who is a dynamo as Piaf, playing the warbling chanteuse through three decades, from raw late teens as a singer rising from the gutter through international stardom and her final days in her frail 40s.

"Thank you, life; thank you, love. And it is true there (are) some angels in this city."

A relatively fresh face in Hollywood, Cotillard has U.S. credits that include "Big Fish," "A Good Year" and the upcoming "Public Enemies," featuring Johnny Depp and Christian Bale.

With a heartbreaking turn as a woman succumbing to Alzheimer's in "Away From Her," Christie had been expected to win her second Oscar. She won best actress 42 years ago for "Darling."

Heavies ruled the first acting prizes. Along with Day-Lewis' greedy oilman, Bardem played an unshakable executioner in "No Country" and Swinton played a malevolent attorney in "Michael Clayton."

"I have an American agent who is the spitting image of this," said Swinton, fondly looking at her Oscar statuette.

"Really, truly, the same shape head, and it has to be said, the buttocks. And I'm giving this to him, because there's no way I'd be in America at all, ever, on a plane if it wasn't for him," said Swinton, who played a conniving attorney who stops at nothing to achieve her goals in a $3 billion class-action lawsuit.

See COENS on Page 19

Few fashion faux pas on Oscar red carpet

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

The best word to describe the red-carpet fashion at the Academy Awards: red.

Katherine Heigl, Helen Mirren, Miley Cyrus, Ruby Dee, Anne Hathaway and Heidi Klum were among the stars in red gowns Sunday night at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles. Shades of plum were worn by Cate Blanchett and Jessica Alba.

"The actresses went regal and royal with rich reds and purples," said Oscar.com fashion analyst Tom Julian.

The other buzzword? Safe.

"I thought people looked generally really good - and really safe," Hal Rubenstein, fashion director at InStyle magazine, told The Associated Press. "I don't know if it had to do with the mood out there with the strike just over and parties canceled, but in fashion now so much is about sheer, print and color, but this was one solid strapless dress after another."

Rubenstein added: "There was a kind of uniform timelessness, which is very nice, but considering those who watch this show do it to get a fashion cue, I wish they were a little more timely than timeless."

He labeled French actress Marion Cotillard's ivory-and-silver gown by Jean Paul Gaultier with scalloped fabric that looked like fish scales the most distinctive of the night.

Jennifer Hudson, who caused last year's biggest fashion flap with a futuristic bolero jacket, was more appropriate this year in a white halter gown.

Pregnant actresses Blanchett, in a Dries van Noten halter gown with floral beading on the skirt, and Alba, in a strapless Marchesa gown with feathers at the bustline, both embraced their revised shapes in empire-waist gowns. Nicole Kidman, also pregnant, went with a simple black gown by Balenciaga and a show-stopping necklace - 7,645 diamonds totaling nearly 1,400 carats by L'Wren Scott.

Feathers were a recent trend on the runway and Penelope

See FEW on Page 19

AP

Actress Helen Mirren presents the Oscar for best actor at the 80th Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008.

COENS

From Page 18

Bardem won for his fearsome turn in "No Country," the first prize of the night for the Coen brothers' front-running crime saga.

"Thank you to the Coens for being crazy enough to think I could do that and for putting one of the most horrible haircuts in history over my head," said Bardem, referring to the sinister variation of a page-boy bob his character sported.

Bardem's character was a terrifying yet perversely amusing presence in "No Country," the best-picture favorite in which his character tosses a coin to decide whether some people he encounters should live or die.

Host Jon Stewart joked that Bardem's haircut in the film combined "Hannibal Lecter's murderousness with Dorothy Hamill's wedge-cut."

Mickey Mouse gained a rival as Hollywood's favorite rodent as the rat tale "Ratatouille" was named best animated film, the second Oscar win in the category for director Brad Bird.

Bird thanked his junior-high guidance counselor, who expressed repeated skepticism over his desire to become a filmmaker.

"It went on like this until we were sick of each other," said Bird, who also won the animation Oscar for 2004's "The Incredibles" and shared a nomination for original screenplay for "Ratatouille," a $200 million blockbuster. "I only realized just recently that he gave me the perfect training for the movie business."

The ceremony's montage of photos and film clips of stars, filmmakers and others in cinema who died in the past year ended with a scene from "Brokeback Mountain" featuring Heath Ledger, who died of a prescription drug overdose last month.

Glen Hansard of the Irish band the Frames and Marketa Irglova, both non-actors who starred in the musical romance "Once," won the best-song Oscar for "Falling Slowly," one of several tunes they wrote for the film.

"What are we doing here? This is mad," Hansard said, recounting the low-budget history of "Once." "It took us three weeks to make. We made it for a hundred-grand. We never thought we'd come into a room like this and be in front of all you people."

The song won over three nominated tunes from "Enchanted" written by composer Alan Menken, an eight-time Oscar winner, and lyricist Stephen Schwartz, a three-time winner, whose previous academy prizes included their song and score collaborations for "Pocahontas."

The sound-mixing win for "The Bourne Ultimatum" extended the years of Oscar futility for Kevin O'Connell, a nominee for "Transformers," who holds an academy record: 20 nominations, no wins.

Michael Moore, who assailed President Bush over the Iraq War in his Oscar speech for documentary winner "Bowling for Columbine" five years ago, missed out on a chance to take the podium again.

His health-care study "Sicko" lost the documentary prize to "Taxi to the Dark Side," a war-on-terror chronicle that centers on an innocent Afghan cab driver killed while in detention.

Box-office dud "The Golden Compass" scored an upset for visual effects over the blockbusters "Transformers" and "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End."

Other early winners included "Elizabeth: The Golden Age" for costume design, "La Vie En Rose" for makeup and "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" for art direction.

The Oscar broadcast began with a fanfare and an effects-laden opening segment showing key characters and creatures from past films lining Hollywood Boulevard.

Stewart started his opening monologue with a wisecrack about the 100-day writers strike that ended just in time for the Oscars to come off as usual.

"These past three and a half months have been very tough. The town was torn apart by a bitter writer's strike, but I'm happy to say that the fight is over," Stewart said. "So tonight, welcome to the makeup sex."

Stewart joked about this year's crop of "Oscar-nominated psychopathic killer movies."

"Does this town need a hug? What happened? 'No Country For Old Men,' 'Sweeney Todd,' 'There Will Be Blood?' All I can say is, thank God for teen pregnancy. I think the country agrees," Stewart said, referring to best-picture nominee "Juno."

FEW

From Page 18

Cruz's black strapless gown had them too.

W magazine fashion market editor Treena Lombardo reminds at-home fashion followers not to take trends from the red carpet too seriously for their own lives. "I don't think any of the trends the Oscars hit are trends the rest of the world needs to know about," she said.

She did notice all that red, though.

"Heidi Klum was the most beautiful I've ever seen her," Lombardo said. "Amy Ryan was the opposite. She was very minimal and very chic—an exact 180 from what Heidi was doing."

Klum's full-volume gown was by Galliano and is being auctioned as part of The Heart Truth campaign to raise awareness about women and heart disease. Ryan's one-shoulder, midnight-blue dress was custom-made by Francisco Costa for Calvin Klein.

One-shoulder gowns were also popular, worn by Hilary Swank in Versace, Olivia Thirlby in Vera Wang, Hathaway in Marchesa and Heigl in Escada. Heigl's gown had a slim-fitting draped bodice, and the front of Hathaway's gown was covered in fabric roses.

Tilda Swinton, who told E! she had never even seen the Oscars on TV, wore an odd one-arm gown by Alber Elbaz for Lanvin and no apparent makeup, a look that seemed in character for the actress, who was born in London into a patrician Scottish military family.

Calista Flockhart went for a vintage ice-blue goddess gown from Rare Vintage.

Several stars opted for strapless styles, including Renee Zellweger in a silver lace gown by Carolina Herrera. The dress had sparkle but was otherwise simple to complement her short hairstyle.

"It was a gloomy, cloudy, wet Oscars and she looked drop-dead gorgeous and radiant," said stylist and style commentator Mary Alice Stephenson. "She looked like what she was supposed to look like at the Oscars, she looked her most glamorous."

Jennifer Garner and Laura Linney also chose strapless gowns and then accessorized them with prominent necklaces. Garner's black Oscar de la Renta dress had an almost flamenco-style skirt and was accessorized with an art deco-era necklace with 61 carats of diamonds from Van Cleef & Arpels, while Linney's dark-blue gown with a bustle back by Michael Kors highlighted a gold pendant-style necklace with diamond and blue topaz by Cathy Waterman.

Keri Russell's champagne-colored Nina Ricci strapless dress came to life with an H.Stern vintage floral necklace from the private vault of Hans Stern.

Cameron Diaz's strapless Christian Dior gown was a pale peach color and had pleats on the bustline. "I put it on and felt like I was wearing nothing," she said.

Diablo Cody also was in Dior—an animal-print gown with a jeweled halter neck—but she didn't wear the $1 million Stuart Weitzman shoes that she labeled a "cheesy publicity stunt." She opted for gold flats instead.

Amy Adams was far more pleased with her Proenza Schouler strapless gown in emerald-green, double-sided silk. "I'm just over the moon with it," she said. Adams carried a tiny Art Nouveau French gold-mesh purse by Fred Leighton.

Stephenson lamented that so many celebrities and designers played it safe. "I had expected people to take more chances. I saw the incredible gowns that were available. I was pretty shocked that a lot more of them weren't utilized," she said.

Cyrus, for example, looked pretty in her cap-sleeve Valentino, Stephenson said, but it was "a bit boring."

However, Pati Dubroff, the Dior makeup artist who worked with the teen star, said she thought Cyrus looked like a "youthful beauty."

Dubroff used minimal makeup, mostly a lip stain, a lot of mascara and a bit of glitter. "To make it special I used glitter like fairy dust. She's a Disney princess come to life."

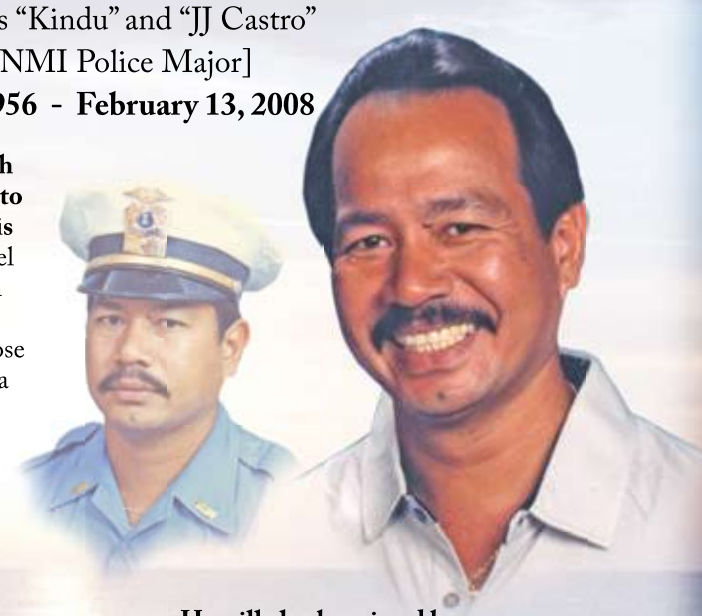
W's Lombardo didn't have such kind words for another young star, Saoirse Ronan. She thought the green chiffon gown by Alberta Ferretti looked like it was made from living room curtains.

But Ronan had her own reasons for wearing it. "I chose green because I'm Irish. I wanted to walk down the red carpet and let everyone know I'm Irish."

IN LOVING MEMORY

†JOAQUIN JONES CASTRO

fondly known as "Kindu" and "JJ Castro"
[Retired CNMI Police Major]
February 27, 1956 - February 13, 2008



On February 13, 2008, Joaquin was blessed with his last rites and shortly after, was called Home to Eternal Life by our Heavenly Father. Joaquin is predeceased by his Parents: Maria J. and Manuel M. Castro; **Sister:** Celing Jones; **Brother:** Juan Jones Castro; **Father-in-law:** Pedro Songao Maratita; **Brothers-in-law:** Juan U. Maratita/ Jose U. Maratita/ and Mametto "Mamet" U. Maratita

Joaquin cherished the quality of life and time spent with his family and friends. He will be forever missed, but, his love, fond memories and his peaceful spirit will live on and remain in the hearts of his:

Wife: Elisa Ulloa Maratita-Castro;

Children and Grandchildren:
Deveyann C. & Jesse Pua (Dariann)
Lismarie C. & Jeffrey C. Sablan (Joaquin)
Jackie M. Castro

Mother-in-law: Maria U. Maratita

Brothers, Sisters, & Spouses: Margarita J. Castro & Jack Tmodrang; Joseph W. & Marilyn (Meng) P. Jones; Josepha & Ramon Kapileo; Manuel J. Castro; Nancy S. Castro; Celina C. & Antonio L. Kaipat; Juanet J. Castro & John S. Dela Cruz; Bonifacio (Ben) J. Castro; Bernadita C. & Pedro Dlg. Manalo; Daniel J. & Dorothy M. Castro; Rosita J. Castro; Benjamin J. & Vivian Q. Castro; and Eddie J. & Maria Ana (Rose) Omar Castro

Brothers/Sisters in-law: Edward U. & Rosa C. Maratita; Leonisa F. Maratita; Melchor U. & Isabel S. Maratita; Asid & Gloria M. Khan; Francisco R. & Beata M. Sablan; Ramon B. & Delia M. Camacho; Jesus S. Cabrera & Romana U. Maratita; Janet U. Maratita; Juan U. & Tracy A. Maratita; Vicente U. & Delia S. Maratita; Donald C. Camacho & Rosalinda Ulloa; George Q. Babauta

He will also be missed by numerous Godchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews. Nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:30 p.m. at the family's residence in Dandan, behind Joeten Dandan Supermarket.

On Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. his remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Pas Chapel (Cabrera Center) to Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m. followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetary.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase for your thoughts and prayers. God Bless

Elisa Maratita Castro, Children and Family

"Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and My burden is light"

Matthew 11:28-30

The Oscar moments you didn't see on TV

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Most of the action on the Oscar stage is choreographed and rehearsed. Backstage is another story.

In the wings of the Kodak Theatre, stars grapple with nerves, have impromptu meetings with colleagues and make last-minute adjustments to their hair and makeup. Presenters and performers mingle with brand-new Oscar winners while dodging props and cameramen.

What you see on TV is Hollywood magic. Backstage is like a home movie, where everybody knows each other and they're all excited about putting on a show.

■ ■ ■

OSCAR SHOCK: As Marion Cotillard stepped offstage with the best-actress Oscar for "La Vie En Rose," Forest Whitaker enveloped her in a hug that lasted at least a minute.

Then they looked at each other and laughed.

"I'm shaking, like wow," Cotillard trembled.

Stopping by the backstage "thank you" cam, she expressed her gratitude in French and studied her Oscar.

"I'm shaking so much I think I can't talk," she said.

Whitaker led her arm-in-arm behind the stage on the winner's walk.

"This is huge, this is huge," she gushed as backstage workers applauded.

At a stop for a makeup touch up she tried to breathe deeply.

"This is crazy, this is totally crazy. Ooh la la la la! It's totally surreal," she said.

Tilda Swinton was so stunned by her win for supporting actress in "Michael Clayton" that she could only keep repeating "wow, wow" as she walked offstage.

Presenter Alan Arkin chased her with the winner's envelope.

"Oh yes, this is the proof," Swinton said, leaving arm-in-arm with Arkin.

■ ■ ■

JITTERS: Katherine Heigl wasn't kidding when she told the Oscar audience she was nervous.

Behind the scenes, a stagehand asked if she was OK.

"I just need a cigarette," she said, bumming one from a security guard and heading out to a loading dock.

■ ■ ■

NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOE BUSINESS: Adjusting her dress as she stepped into the theater wings and prepared to take the stage, Jennifer Garner confessed to the stage manager: "I'd like to take my shoes off."

"We could do it," he replied.

Instead, she looked skyward and said, "I didn't mean it, karmic dressing gods," and walked in a small circle.

"I'm just going to make sure I'm not going to fall," she explained.

Rene Zellweger had slung her silver Christian Louboutins over her shoulder when Johnny Depp ran into her.

"I like your shoes," Depp said.

"Thanks man," Zellweger replied. "I used to like the shoes."

■ ■ ■

STAR CLUSTER: At times it seemed there were as many stars in the green room as in the audience.

Penelope Cruz sat by her sister, Monica, and fanned herself. They were joined by Miley Cyrus, Johnny Depp and companion Vanessa Paradis, and Forest Whitaker.

Marion Cotillard was about to join them when she learned she would have to smoke outside.

■ ■ ■

CELEBRITY PLUMBING: The restroom just offstage was another Kodak Theatre hotspot.

Jessica Alba and Forrest Whitaker waited in line, and Javier Bardem brought his Oscar inside with him.

First-time presenters Seth Rogen and Jonah Hill passed the crowd on the way to the stage, but Hill paused and thought better of it. They joined lineup.

■ ■ ■

LADIES MAN: This backstage reporter was just trying to get out of Jack Nicholson's way, but ended up in his crosshairs.

As he passed in a narrow corridor he brushed against her synthetic white fur coat.

"Nice jacket," he said half under his breath.

As the reporter thanked him, photographers in the hallway aimed their cameras.

"Let's have a picture," said Nicholson.

AP

French actress Marion Cotillard reacts to winning the Oscar for best actress for her work in "La Vie en Rose" the 80th Academy Awards Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Seen and heard at the Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- The hottest accessory on this year's Oscar red carpet was carried beneath the designer gowns.

Nicole Kidman, Jessica Alba and most noticeably Cate Blanchett brought baby bumps to the Academy Awards. And though Angelina Jolie was nowhere to be found, hers got a big shout-out from host Jon Stewart, who noted the number of actresses who are expecting.

"This is so exciting. The baby goes to ... Angelina Jolie," Stewart said, opening a fake envelope as photos of Blanchett, Alba and Kidman flashed on the screen. "Angelina couldn't be with us tonight. It's tough to get 17 baby sitters on Oscar night."

Blanchett is closest to term for what will be a third child with playwright husband Andrew Upton. Kidman is expecting her first child with country singer husband Keith Urban; she has two adopted children with first husband Tom Cruise.

Alba, with fiancee Cash Warren at her side, was serene in a deep purple strapless gown with purple feathers decorating her bodice.

"I'm not really terribly nervous," she said before the show. "Being pregnant is like taking a sedative."

Jolie and partner Brad Pitt are expecting their second child together. They are the parents of 1-year-old Shiloh, and three children adopted from Cambodia, Ethiopia and Vietnam. Their adopted children are Maddox, 6; Pax, 4; and Zahara, 3.

■ ■ ■

TAKE THIS BLING AND SHOVE IT: The shoes fit—and cost $1 million—but Diablo Cody didn't wear 'em.

Fancy-footwear designer Stuart Weitzman had selected the Oscar-nominated "Juno" screenwriter to wear his specially designed $1 million diamond-encrusted Retro Rose shoes on the red carpet, but Cody opted to wear a pair of simple gold flats under her flowing Dior leopard print dress instead.

"It was a cheesy publicity stunt," she told the AP on the red carpet.

On Friday, Cody lashed out at Weitzman on her MySpace blog following the expensive shoe selection.

"They're using me to publicize their stupid shoes and NOBODY ASKED ME," she wrote. "I would never consent to a lame publicity stunt at a time when I already want to hide."

Weitzman later said he made the cost of the metallic beige T-strap high heels—more than $2.5 million, including parts that were not used in the final pair—clear to Cody when he met with her. He blames the stripper-turned-screenwriter's behind-the-scenes team for not fully communicating the value of the shoes to Cody.

"I'm just embarrassed that she wrote what she wrote," he told the AP during a telephone interview Saturday night.

Even so, the designer says he wouldn't change his decision to give the ultra-expensive heels to Cody.

■ ■ ■

RAIN CHECK: Mother Nature should have known better than to try to dampen Hollywood's biggest event of the year.

Although the heavens opened up and rain poured down on Los Angeles almost all day Sunday, anyone watching the Academy Awards at home would have had no idea.

Yards and yards of tenting kept all of the red carpet outside the Kodak Theatre high and dry except for one brief edge near a tricky turn. Powerful lights gave the illusion that the sun was shining even though most of the time it wasn't.

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Vantage Point
Friday 4:15 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:00 9:45
Sunnday 1:10 4:15 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:00
Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG13
Synopsis
Thomas Barnes and Kent Taylor are two Secret Service agents assigned to protect President Ashton at a landmark summit on the global war on terror. When President Ashton is shot moments after his arrival in Spain, chaos ensues and disparate lives collide. In the crowd is Howard Lewis, an American tourist videotaping the historic event to show his kids when he returns home. Also there is Rex, an American TV news producer who is reporting on the conference.

Witless Protection
Friday 4:25 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:10 9:35
Sunnday 1:25 4:25 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:10
Larry the Cable Guy, Ivana Milicevic
Comedy, Crime • Rated PG13

Untraceable
Friday 4:30 7:05 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:05 9:55
Sunnday 1:30 4:30 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:05
Diane Lane, Billy Burke
Drama, Thriller, Crime • Rated R

★ ★ ★

The Spiderwick Chronicles
Friday 4:00 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:30
Sunnday 1:00 4:00 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:20
Seth Rogen, Mary-Loise Parker
Fantasy, Children • Rated PG13
Synopsis
Peculiar things start to happen the moment the Grace family (Jared, his twin brother Simon, sister Mallory and their mom) leave New York and move into the secluded old house owned by their great, great uncle Arthur Spiderwick. Unable to explain the strange disappearances and accidents that seem to be happening on a daily basis, the family blames Jared. When he, Simon and Mallory investigate what"s really going on, they uncover the fantastic truth of the Spiderwick estate and of the creatures that inhabit it.

Fool's Gold
Friday 4:10 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:15 10:00
Sunnday 1:20 4:10 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:15
Matthew McConaughey, Kate Hudson
Action, Adventure • Rated PG13

Jumper
Friday 4:05 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:25 9:40
Sunnday 1:05 4:05 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:25
Hayden Christensen, Samuel L. Jackson
Adventure, Sci-Fi • Rated PG13

Meet the Spartans
Friday 4:20 @ @
Saturday 1:15 4:20 @ @
Sunnday 1:15 4:20 @
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 @
Diedrich Bader, Kevin Sorbo
Comedy • Rated PG13

Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins
Friday @ 7:30 9:50
Saturday @ @ 7:30 9:50
Sunnday @ @ 7:30
Mon thru Thurs @ 7:30
Martin Lawrence, Louis C.K.
Comedy • Rated PG13

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Angelina Jolie shows off baby bump

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If the bump on her belly is any indication, Angelina Jolie really is pregnant.

The actress created a stir at Saturday night's Spirit Awards when she showed up with partner Brad Pitt on her arm and a noticeably pregnant bulge.

Jolie ignored reporters' questions on the awards show carpet, but People magazine reported on its Web site that a source close to the couple confirmed that she and Pitt are "thrilled to be adding to their brood."

Pitt's publicist, Cindy Guagenti, declined comment to The Associated Press.

Jolie and Pitt are parents of a 1-year-old daughter, Shiloh, and three children adopted from Cambodia, Ethiopia and Vietnam. Their adopted children are Maddox, 6; Pax, 4; and Zahara, 3.

Jolie's appearance helped give a theme to Saturday's Spirit Awards, where the big winner was the teen pregnancy comedy "Juno," taking awards for best independent film, best actress for Ellen Page and best first screenplay for Diablo Cody.

Angelina Jolie, left, and Brad Pitt arrive at the 2008 Independent Spirit Awards in Santa Monica, Calif. on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008. AP

'Vantage Point' gets top box office vote

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The political thriller "Vantage Point" secured the top spot at the weekend box office, earning an estimated $24 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The previous No. 1 movie, 20th Century Fox's "Jumper," dropped to second with $12.7 million, raising its domestic total to $56.2 million in two weeks. Paramount's family fantasy "The Spiderwick Chronicles" was a close third with $12.6 million. Disney's dance saga "Step Up 2 The Streets" and Warner Bros.' romantic comedy "Fool's Gold" rounded out the top five.

"Vantage Point," a Sony Pictures action-drama about a presidential assassination seen from the viewpoints of different characters, included a star-studded ensemble cast that featured Dennis Quaid and Matthew Fox as Secret Service agents.

"Audiences really love it when they get a summer-style popcorn movie at a time of the year when they don't expect it," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracker Media By Numbers.

The studio said "Vantage Point" appealed to a broad audience—52 percent of moviegoers were male and half were under age 30.

"It's fresh with lots of twists and turns. Audiences become very invested in it," said Rory Bruer, Sony president of distribution.

1. "Vantage Point," $24 million.
2. "Jumper," $12.7 million.
3. "Spiderwick Chronicles," $12.6 million.
4. "Step Up 2 the Streets," $9.8 million.
5. "Fool's Gold," $6.3 million.
6. "Definitely, Maybe," $5.2 million.
7. "Juno," $4.1 million.
7. "Be Kind Rewind," $4.1 million.
9. "Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins," $4 million.
10. "There Will Be Blood," $2.6 million.

Notable quotes from Sunday's Oscars

Quotes from Sunday night's 80th annual Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles:

"I don't have a lot to add to what I said earlier. Thanks." —Ethan Coen, winning the best director Oscar along with his brother, Joel Coen, for "No Country for Old Men." They had earlier won the adapted screenplay Oscar for the film.

■ ■ ■

"My deepest thanks to the members of the Academy for whacking me with the handsomest bludgeon in town." —Daniel Day-Lewis, star of "There Will Be Blood," accepting the best actor Oscar.

■ ■ ■

"This is for the writers. I want to thank all the writers. I especially want to thank my fellow nominees, because I worship you guys. I'm learning from you every day." - Diablo Cody, choking back tears as she accepted the original screenplay Oscar for "Juno."

■ ■ ■

"I'm speechless. ... Thank you life. Thank you love. It is true there (are) some angels in this city." —Marion Cotillard, after winning the best actress Oscar for "La Vie en Rose."

■ ■ ■

"George Clooney, you know, the seriousness and the dedication to your art, seeing you climb into that rubber batsuit from 'Batman & Robin'—the one with the nipples, every morning under your costume, on the set, off the set, hanging upside-down at lunch - you rock man." —Tilda Swinton, thanking "Michael Clayton" co-star George Clooney after winning best supporting actress trophy.

■ ■ ■

"Thank you to the Coens for being crazy enough to think that I could do that and put one of the most horrible haircuts (in) history over my head." —Javier Bardem, thanking directors Ethan and Joel Coen while accepting the best supporting actor Oscar for "No Country for Old Men."

■ ■ ■

"The fight is over. So tonight, welcome to the makeup sex." —Jon Stewart, on the post-strike Oscars.

■ ■ ■

"If we stay the course, we can turn these movies around." - Jon Stewart, on the plethora of financially unsuccessful Iraq movies.

■ ■ ■

"I feel probably like Eli Manning felt at the Super Bowl. Glad to be in the show, ready for anything." —Viggo Mortensen, nominated for best actor in "Eastern Promises."

■ ■ ■

"Unfortunately, so often the roles are not good enough for the women, but the roles for the men are always wonderful." —Helen Mirren.

Complete list of Oscar winners

Best Motion Picture: "No Country for Old Men."
Lead Actor: Daniel Day-Lewis, "There Will Be Blood."
Lead Actress: Marion Cotillard, "La Vie en Rose."
Supporting Actor: Javier Bardem, "No Country for Old Men."
Supporting Actress: Tilda Swinton, "Michael Clayton."
Director: Joel Coen and Ethan Coen, "No Country for Old Men."
Foreign Language Film: "The Counterfeiters," Austria.
Adapted Screenplay: Joel Coen and Ethan Coen, "No Country for Old Men."
Original Screenplay: Diablo Cody, "Juno."
Animated Feature Film: "Ratatouille."
Art Direction: "Sweeney Todd the Demon Barber of Fleet Street."
Cinematography: "There Will Be Blood."
Sound Mixing: "The Bourne Ultimatum."
Sound Editing: "The Bourne Ultimatum."
Original Score: "Atonement," Dario Marianelli.
Original Song: "Falling Slowly" from "Once," Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova.
Costume: "Elizabeth: The Golden Age."
Documentary Feature: "Taxi to the Dark Side."
Documentary Short Subject: "Freeheld."
Film Editing: "The Bourne Ultimatum."
Makeup: "La Vie en Rose."
Animated Short Film: "Peter & the Wolf."
Live Action Short Film: "Le Mozart des Pickpockets (`The Mozart of Pickpockets')."
Visual Effects: "The Golden Compass."
Honorary and technical Oscars: Robert Boyle; Eastman Kodak Co.; David A. Grafton.

Being one of the guys is insulting to many gals

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I had to write regarding the letter from "Disgruntled in Lompoc, Calif." (Dec. 28), whose pet peeve is waitstaff (in particular) referring to her and her lady friends as "guys."

Well, 3,000 miles away, I, too, am sick to death of being called a guy. When it happens to me, I tell my server that "the last time I looked, I was NOT a guy!" Sometimes they get it —sometimes not.

I notice that on some of the TV shows I watch, even women refer to a group of people as "guys." I hate it—and would ask you, with your worldwide influence, to bring the issue forward. We are NOT "guys," we are "people" or "folks" or "ladies and gentlemen"! Or else, Merriam-Webster will have to change its definition of "guys." Thanks for letting me vent.

—JACKI IN WILBRAHAM, MASS.

DEAR JACKI: I had no idea when I printed that letter that it would hit such a nerve with my readers, but oh, sister, have I heard from them! While I, too, would prefer to have my femininity acknowledged rather than to be called a guy, I would, however, not let it ruin my meal if it happened.

And, as to Merriam-Webster's definition of a "guy,"—my 11th Edition says in black and white that "guy" can refer to "any person" when used colloquially. Frankly, I found it so surprising that I looked in the American Heritage College Dictionary to see if there was agreement, and it also states: "Informal (ital.): Persons of either sex." Read on:

DEAR ABBY: As I have told my ESL students, "guys" is acceptable colloquial English. In the singular, it refers to a male, of course. However, in the plural it may refer to males, males and females, or even just females.

—NICK LONGO, RACINE, WIS.

DEAR ABBY: Almost 40 years ago, my wife's college roommates would tease her for using the phrase "you guys." (My wife was born in central California.) Our college chums were all from down South.

If familiar (perhaps overly familiar) slang bothers "Disgruntled," all she has to do is reply, "I'm not a guy. Are YOU?" Nothing will change behavior quicker than public humiliation.

—FAITHFUL READER IN FORT WORTH (OR AS WE SAY IT HERE, 'FOAT WUTH')

DEAR ABBY: Fresh out of college, I moved to Oklahoma from central Illinois to teach high school. In front of my first class I said, "OK, you guys, take out your books." The boys did, but the girls just sat there. That's when I learned to say, "Y'all" if I wanted the whole class to respond.

I hope "Disgruntled" isn't too offended. It's not meant to be disrespectful. It's a regional colloquialism.

—GRETCHEN IN SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: I was at a restaurant once with two women and a male friend who happened to have longer hair than either of us at the time. Our server asked, "How are you ladies doing this evening?" only to be embarrassed upon learning the sex of our male companion—who also happened to be the godson of the restaurant's owner. Sometimes it's better to be safe than sorry, and "folks" is the safe route.

—ROSE IN OAKLAND, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: Why do young people insist on using that term? First, it is unprofessional, and second, are they blind?

My solution is to smile sweetly and ask, "Honey, do I LOOK like a guy to you? Because if I do, you need your eyes checked." This is just some "food" for thought. Thanks for letting me put my "tip" in.

—A LADY IN CUMBERLAND, MD.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

DAD! DAD! WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR GUNS? GET OUT THE MAGNUM!
I DON'T HAVE ANY GUNS. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
ROSALYN'S HERE AND SHE WON'T GO AWAY! WHY ON EARTH DON'T YOU HAVE ANY GUNS??
YOUR MOM AND I ARE GOING OUT. ROSALYN IS HERE TO BABY-SIT.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? I TOLD YOU THAT THIS MORNING.
YOU JUST DON'T PAY ATTENTION. THAT'S WHY YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
HOW ABOUT A WOODEN STAKE AND A MALLET? DO WE HAVE THAT?!
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2/26

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

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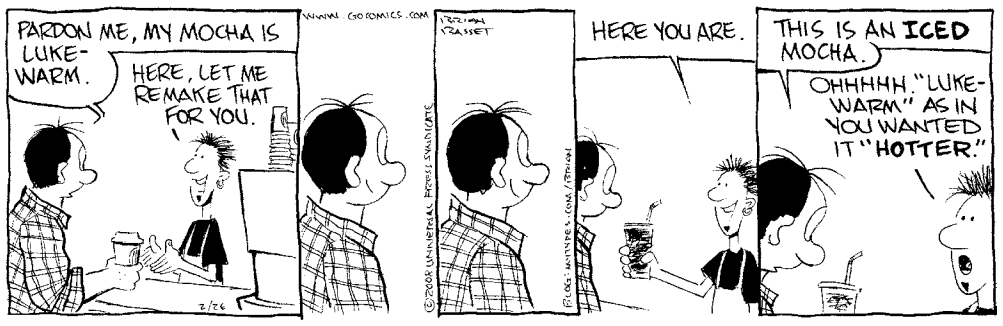
Text GARFIELD to 26642 US ONLY
WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT?
I WAS COLD
I ♡ MICE
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 2-26

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


PARDON ME, MY MOCHA IS LUKE-WARM.
HERE, LET ME REMAKE THAT FOR YOU.
HERE YOU ARE.
THIS IS AN ICED MOCHA.
OHHHHH. "LUKE-WARM" AS IN YOU WANTED IT "HOTTER."
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM
BRIAN BASSET
2/26

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Zounds!"
5 — -relief
8 Pop
12 Nevada city
13 Early love boat?
14 Wading bird
15 Make suitable for the middle class
17 Builder of 13-Across
18 Director's call
19 Apt
21 Hiawatha's vessel
24 Jazzy style
25 Appear ominously
26 Hardly stingy
30 Yoko —
31 Veep under Coolidge
32 Expert
33 Mensa members
35 Howie Mandel's offering
36 Narrate
37 Punch-bowl accessory
38 Acid neutralizer
41 Descartes' conclusion
42 Authentic
43 Cop (Fr.)
48 Timbuktu's land
49 9 to 5, for ex.
50 Oxford or loafer
51 Detail, briefly
52 Tit for —
53 Eccentric

DOWN
1 Work unit
2 Modern-day 1-Across
3 Massachusetts cape
4 Online business
5 Worm, often
6 "Bow-wow!"
7 Urban silhouettes
8 Doughnut, slangily
9 Reed instrument
10 Use an old phone
11 Wan
16 Regret
20 Currier's partner
21 Stop up
22 Top-rated
23 Midday
24 Gem
26 1944 Boyer/Bergman movie
27 Newspaper page
28 Caspian feeder
29 Unrivaled
31 Hamilton-Burr event
34 Slanted type
35 Grayish red
37 Young fellow
38 Weaponry
39 Bound
40 Hardy cabbage
41 "Meet Me — Louis"
44 Historic period
45 Pi follower
46 Cattle call?
47 "A mouse!"

Solution time: 21 mins.

J	O	G	■	L	U	C	A	S	■	J	U	G
O	R	E	■	A	M	I	N	O	■	A	P	E
B	R	O	A	D	B	A	N	D	■	M	O	N
■	■	■	P	I	E	■	A	D	V	E	N	T
F	A	S	T	E	R	■	L	E	I	S	■	■
A	M	O	■	S	T	A	■	N	A	B	O	B
L	O	U	T	■	O	P	S	■	L	O	R	E
A	S	T	I	R	■	R	O	T	■	N	A	B
■	■	H	E	A	P	■	M	I	D	D	L	E
U	M	B	R	I	A	■	A	L	E	■	■	■
N	E	E	■	S	P	E	L	L	B	I	N	D
D	A	N	■	E	E	R	I	E	■	L	E	E
O	D	D	■	D	R	E	A	R	■	K	O	I

Yesterday's answer 2-26

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
■	■	■	18			■	19	20				
21	22	23			■	24				■	■	■
25				■	26					27	28	29
30			■	31					■	32		
33			34					■	35			
■	■	■	36				■	37				
38	39	40				■	41			■	■	■
42				■	43	44				45	46	47
48					49			■	50			
51				■	52				53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Erykah Badu, 37; Jennifer Grant, 43; Mark Dacascos, 44; Michael Bolton, 54

Happy Birthday: Be frugal if you want to get ahead financially this year. Personal relationships should be dealt with. If you aren't happy, make suggestions or move on. This isn't a year to waste time or cash. Emotional issues will surface so be prepared to act fast. Your numbers are 7, 11, 16, 20, 40, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): If you don't agree with what's going on or you have better solutions, speak up. Help will be offered if you ask for it so don't let your ego stop you from accepting what's available. Money will come from an unusual source. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't worry about the things you can't change. Emotional matters will leave you confused about your future. A powerful step in a direction that will help you secure your own financial position is what you should be pursuing. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can excel in business or any other activity you get involved in if you are aggressive and demanding with your suggestions. A contract or offer will turn out to be more inviting than expected. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Spice up your looks and give yourself a pep talk and you will raise your confidence and morale. Getting involved in events or activities will enable you to change your direction. Emotional issues will stand in your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't take what others say to heart. Chances are good some of the people around you are taking their bad day out on you. Be fun and charming and refuse to give in to complaining and poor-me attitudes. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Follow through with your plans, especially if they have anything to do with socializing, networking or making money. A change in someone you are close to may make you rethink the relationship. If you make a move too soon, it may cost you later on. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Be unique, imaginative and a little daring and you will surprise everyone around you. Praise will be yours for doing things your way and not giving in to pressure. A little celebration will be in order. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let your emotions take over. If you get upset over little things, you will lose ground with the people you want to impress. A love problem is likely to arise if you have been neglectful. Change your routine a little. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): If you are too quick to make a decision or take action, you will end up confused and will give the impression that you really aren't sure what you are doing. Protect your reputation. Less will be more in the end. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take a leadership position. An emotional matter can be cleared up if you are precise regarding your demands. There is money to be made and a secure and stable lifestyle to gain by taking action. Don't waffle now. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't be lead astray. You may not like what's going on around you but it's better to know the truth and deal with matters head-on. By staying strong, you can manipulate whatever situation you face. Don't show emotion. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A secret regarding a contract or money matter is apparent. Ask questions and you will be able to find out where you stand. Anger and jealousy must be put to rest and if that means making an apology, do so quickly. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, determined and willing to try new things. You are imaginative, fun-loving, electric and entertaining.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

6			7	3	8			1
			4		9			
		2				3		
5	2						4	6
1								8
4	6						3	9
		9				4		
			8		2			
2			9	6	1			5

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	5	7	3	6	9	1	4
6	1	4	9	8	2	5	7	3
9	7	3	4	1	5	2	8	6
3	6	1	2	9	4	8	5	7
4	2	7	6	5	8	3	9	1
8	5	9	1	7	3	6	4	2
5	3	6	8	4	1	7	2	9
7	4	2	5	6	9	1	3	8
1	9	8	3	2	7	4	6	5

Difficulty Level ★ 2/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE YEAR'S BEST **Solution: 9 letters**

N	U	M	B	E	R	S	D	V	A	L	U	E	E	S
T	O	E	D	I	V	K	V	T	S	S	E	R	P	W
S	C	I	E	N	C	E	H	E	T	S	R	I	F	E
E	G	S	T	I	H	L	M	O	V	I	E	N	G	N
T	R	Y	P	I	E	A	R	M	U	B	L	A	K	R
N	A	L	C	T	N	Y	O	(R)	P	T	R	I	O	E
O	D	L	E	M	A	G	N	R	(A)	U	N	C	O	Y
C	E	A	W	A	R	D	O	V	O	(T)	E	I	B	A
O	S	T	U	D	Y	G	H	C	M	I	(S)	S	O	L
N	L	L	O	P	R	R	M	A	E	T	O	U	Q	P
S	W	D	R	A	G	E	R	S	D	R	G	M	T	N
U	H	I	M	L	N	T	L	E	A	D	E	R	N	K
M	Z	O	N	C	I	I	T	O	L	L	A	B	E	N
E	V	A	W	S	T	R	O	P	S	E	E	R	V	A
R	O	H	T	U	A	W	S	C	T	L	U	S	E	R

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Album, Artist, Athlete, Author, Award, Ballot, Book, Clap, Coin, Consumer, Contest, Courage, Event, First, Game, Grade, Honor, Leader, Medal, Movie, Musician, Name, News, Numbers, Pick, Player, Point, Poll, Press, Prize, Program, Quote, Rank, Recognition, Regard, Result, Sales, Science, Show, Sports, Star, Story, Study, Tally, Team, Value, Vehicle, Video, Vote, Wave, Wins, Writer

Yesterday's Answer: Treatment

Treasury 4 is available to order by sending check or money order for $10.95 plus $3.25 postage and handling ($14.20 total, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

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1 AUTO MECHANIC (T 3958)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Javili General Partnership dba YJC Auto Shop @235-4928.

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1 SEWER (T 3959)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Zhen Rui Brother Corp. dba Ah Biao Clothing Store @233-8877.

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1 SALES CLERK
(ATTENDANT) (T 3960)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; free medical expense & workman's compensation. Contact: Pam Pacific Development Inc. dba Pena House Boutique @235-6888/7888.

1 COMMERCIAL
CLEANER (T 3961)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; free medical expense & workman's compensation. Contact: Pam Pacific Development Inc. dba Pena House Boutique @235-6888/7888.

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2 GARBAGE
COLLECTOR (T 3962)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; free medical expense & workmen's compensation. Contact: AYD Services, Inc. @235-7011.

4 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
OPERATOR (T 3963)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; free medical expense & workmen's compensation. Contact: AYD Services, Inc. @235-7011.

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1 PASSENGER
SERVICE AGENT (T 3964)
Salary:$3.55-4.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation employers provided. Contact: Pacific Oriental INC. @ 288-0360 to 0362.

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1 SALES
MERCHANDISER (T 3965)
Salary:$3.55-4.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation employers provided. Contact: Coca-Coca Beverages Co. @ 235-2553.

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3 WAITER/WAITRESS (T 3966)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation employers provided. Contact: Dynamic core Group, Inc dba Shirley's Coffee Shop @ 235-5379.

1 PASSENGER
SERVICE AGENT (TTh 0001)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/HOUR. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation employers provided. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @ 288-0360 TO 0362.

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1 MAINTENANCE
REPAIRER (SUNT 0001)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable & workers compensation insurance. Contact: Felipe L. Kalen dba Community Service Plus @322-0113.

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1 COOK (SUNT 0002)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Tai Hu Int'l Inc. @233-2288.

1 FLORIST (SUNT 0003)
Salary:$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Keebentton Int'l Inc. @233-2288.

1 SUPERVISOR (SUNT 0004)
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1 MERCHANDISE DISPLAYER
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REPAIRER (SUNT 0006)
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1 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER
(SUNT 0008)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Keebentton Int'l Inc. @233-2288.

1 MERCHANDISE
DISPLAYER (SUNT 0009)
Salary:$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Commonwealth Pacific Int'l Inc. @233-2288.

1 MERCHANDISER
DISPLAYER (SUNT 0010)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Commonwealth Pacific Int'l Inc. @233-2288.

1 COMMERCIAL
CLEANER (SUNT 0011)
Salary:$3.65/hour. Benefits: Flexible housing; flexible food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Full House, Inc. @233-2288.

1 SUPERVISOR (SUNT 0012)
Salary:$3.65/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Full House Inc. @233-2288.

1 MERCHANDISE
DISPLAYER (SUNT 0013)
Salary:$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Full House Inc. @233-2288.

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1 MANAGER (SUNT 0014)
Salary:$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation are provided by employer. Contact: S&BS Ent., Inc. @234-2155.

1 COMMERCIAL
CLEANER (SUNT 0015)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; self arrange transportation; workers compensation provided by employer & medical expenses. Contact: Asuncion Quitugua dba D'Green Flash Rest. @235-4728.

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3 WAITRESS/
WAITER (SUNT 0016)
Salary:$3.55-$5.00/hour. Benefits: Medical coverage expenses; vacation leave (earned after 1 yr. of service); sick leave (earned after 90 days of service); compassionate leave; employee's discount & workers compensation. Contact: Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. @234-7171.

2 TELEPHONE CABLE
SPLICER (TTH 0002)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medicare & workers compensation. Contact: Saipan World Corp. dba ITS @235-6511.

1 COMMUNICATION
ENGINEER (TTH 0003)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Saipan World Corp. dba ITS @235-6511.

1 GENERAL
MANAGER (TTH 0004)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Saipan World Corp. dba ITS @235-6511.

1 ACCOUNTANT (TTH 0005)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medicare & workers compensation. Contact: Saipan World Corp. dba ITS @235-6511.

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1 ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT (TTH 0006)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical care. Contact: Global Ground Corp. @288-1211.

1 ACCOUNTANT (TTH 0007)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Global Ground Corp. @288-1211.

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1 MANAGER (TTH 0008)
Salary:$1,800.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Koma Corp. @483-8810.

---

1 GENERAL
MANAGER (TTH 0009)
Salary:$1,700.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Yihua Corp. @288-1211.

---

1 AIR-CON
MECHANIC (TTH 0010)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing; $100.00/food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Jangahn Investment Corp. dba Prince Hotel @322-9000.

WHATZIT Solution: A little white lie

1 SPORTS
INSTRUCTOR (TTH 0011)
Salary:$3.55-$10.00/hour. Benefits: Free housing except utility; medical bill and workers compensation is company provided. Contact: Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy'z II Marine @234-3358.

1 ACCOUNTANT (TTH 0012)
Salary:$3.55-$8.00/hour. Benefits: Free housing except utility; medical bill and workers compensation is company provided. Contact: Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy'z II Marine @234-3358.

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1 HEAVY EQUIPMENT
OPERATOR (TTH 0013)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; transportation to from jobsite; medical insurance & workmen's compensation. Contact: Raymond P. Ceron dba Ceron Heavy Equipment & Parts @234-8128.

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1 LIVE-IN
HOUSEWORKER (TTH 0014)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing monthly deduction; $100.00/food monthly deduction & CNMI taxes. Contact: Jeannette Mary T. Pangelinan @483-3326.

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1 COMMERCIAL
CLEANER (TTH 0015)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Work compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc. @234-6616/7/8.

1 MECHANIC
(GAS & DIESEL) (TTH 0016)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Work compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc. @234-6616/7/8.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (TTH 0017)
Salary:$600.00-$1,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Marianas Professional Services, Inc. dba LBT Appraisal @234-7325.

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Tiger wins Match Play for world sweep

MARANA, Ariz. (AP)—Not even the most unpredictable tournament in golf could keep Tiger Woods from an inevitable victory. There seems to be no stopping him.

Stewart Cink barely put up a fight Sunday in the Accenture Match Play Championship, where Woods broke a scoring record for the fourth straight tournament, collected his fifth straight victory worldwide and didn't so much as crack a smile when someone asked him if a perfect season was within reach.

"That's my intent," he said. "That's why you play. It you don't believe you can win an event, don't show up."

Relentless as ever, Woods made 14 birdies in 29 holes in the high desert of Dove Mountain to overwhelm Stewart Cink for an 8-and-7 victory, the largest margin in the final match in the 10-year history of his fickle event.

Woods captured his 15th World Golf Championship, holding all three world title for the first time.

And his 63rd career victory moved him past Arnold Palmer and into fourth place alone on the PGA Tour's career list. His next victory will tie him with Ben Hogan.

Golf is not a fair fight at the moment.

"I think maybe we ought to slice him open to see what's inside," Cink said. "Maybe nuts and bolts."

Cink was only the latest victim in a winning streak that dates to Sept. 3, 2007, a date worth remembering.

Woods won the BMW Championship the following week at 262, breaking the tournament scoring record by five shots. He won the Tour Championship by a record eight shots, and the Buick Invitational by the same margin, another tournament record.

This is the third time Woods has won at least four straight PGA Tour events. He also won in Dubai three weeks ago on the European tour by coming back from a four-shot deficit.

"I think this is the best stretch I've ever played," Woods said.

He has won six of his last seven PGA Tour events, 16 of his last 30 over the last two years.

The confidence in his game is so high that Woods started this season by saying the Grand Slam was "easily within reason." For now, he has a Triple Crown of the World Golf Championships, a sweep that included an eight-shot victory in the Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone and a two-shot victory in the CA Championship at Doral.

Woods' tour winning streak was at seven last year when Nick O'Hern beat him in the third round of the Match Play. Given the fickle nature of this format, even Woods said it was the toughest tournament to win this side of a major.

Turns out the hard part was just getting to the final match.

Woods rallied from three down with five holes to play in the opening round against J.B. Holmes by winning four straight holes with three birdies and a 35-foot eagle. He twice watched Aaron Baddeley putt from inside 12 feet to win a third-round match, beating the Australian in 20 holes. And he was stretched to 18 holes in the semifinals against defending champion Henrik Stenson.

"I played 117 holes this week," Woods said. "I could have easily played 16 and then been home. That's the fickleness of match play."

But the final was no contest.

He built a 4-up lead after the morning round of 66, and Cink never got any closer.

Cink didn't win a hole until No. 12, and the only hole he won in the afternoon came at the par-5 10th when he rolled in a 36-foot eagle putt. Woods had an eagle putt from 35 feet, and the ball spun around the cup.

"Even the minuscule amount that I upstaged him there - him being 8 up - I still thought he was going to make it," Cink said. "He lipped it out, and I thought, 'Hey, come on. At least give me a moment to shine here.' And he said, 'Sorry, dude.'"

The next stop for Woods is the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

"Anytime you're associated with Arnold and what he's done with the game of golf, it's always a positive thing," Woods said about going 1-up in career victories over the King. "I could never have foreseen my victory total being this high, my game improvement being as much as it has been, my knowledge of the game."

Woods' record in the WGCs is simply ridiculous. This is the 10th year of this series, which was designed to bring together the best players in the world. Identifying the best? That was never a serious question.

Woods is a staggering 15-of-26 in official WGC events, three of those in the Match Play Championship. Darren Clarke (Match Play, Bridgestone) is the only other player with multiple WGC victories.

The world's No. 1 player has built a career on these events alone:

-Woods earned $1.35 million Sunday, giving him over $19.8 million in these elite events. That's roughly 25 percent of Woods' career PGA Tour earnings, and more than Tom Lehman has earned in more than 430 tour starts.

-He was won 15 times in WGC events, as many victories as Fred Couples has in his entire PGA Tour career.

"It says about the same thing that just about any other stat you can pull up of him says," Cink said. "It says he's the best that's ever played."

Stenson won the first four holes and defeated Justin Leonard in the consolation match, 3 and 2. Leonard should earn enough world ranking points to move into the top 40, boosting his chances of getting into the Masters.

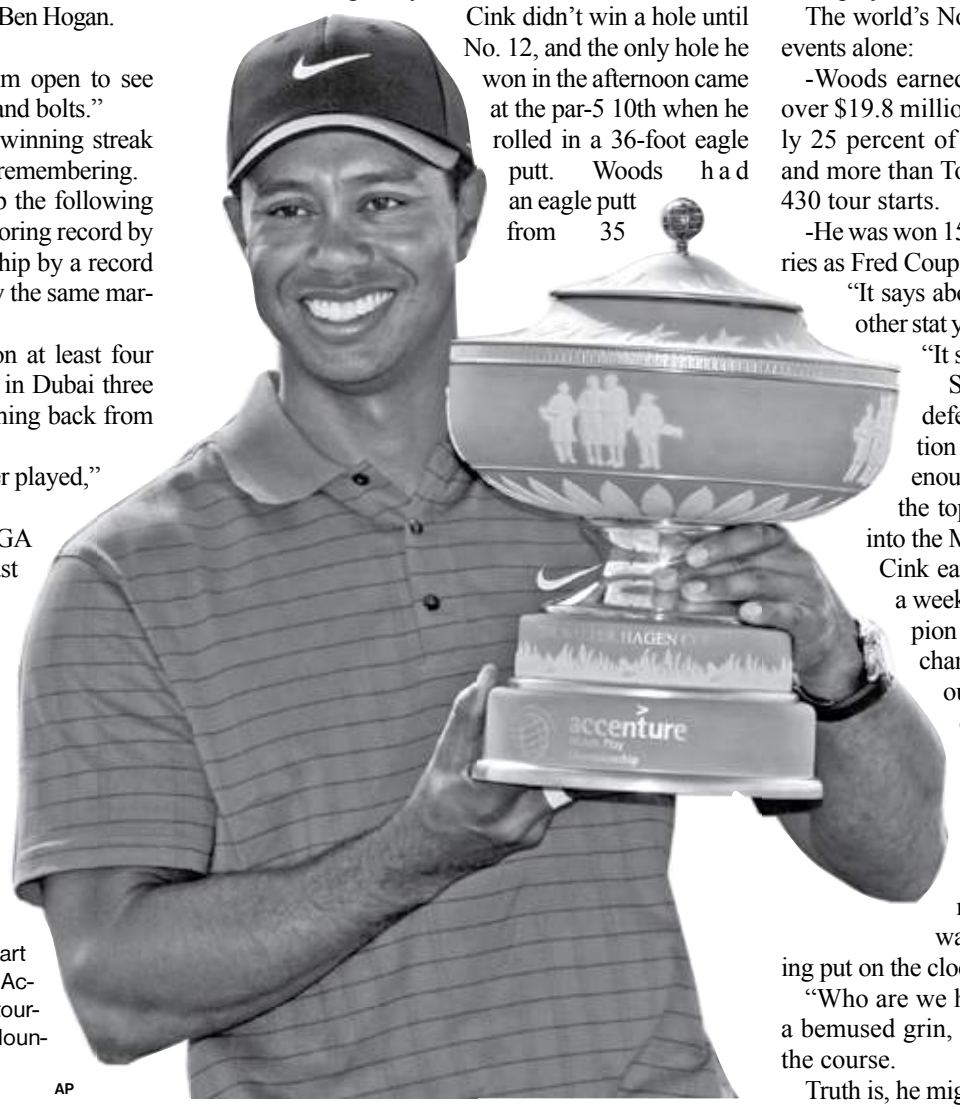
Cink earned $800,000 and will look back on a week in which he beat British Open champion Padraig Harrington and U.S. Open champion Angel Cabrera before running out of magic against the reigning PGA champion.

"I'm a little disappointed I didn't throw a little more at Tiger, put some pressure on him," Cink said.

Woods already was 4 up after eight holes in the morning when he mentioned that a rules official had just warned them that they were close to being put on the clock for slow play.

"Who are we holding up?" Woods whispered with a bemused grin, noting they were the only match on the course.

Truth is, he might as well have been playing alone.



Tiger Woods holds the Walter Hagen Cup following his 8 and 7 victory over Stewart Cink in the championship match of the Accenture Match Play Championship golf tournament at The Gallery Golf Club at Dove Mountain, in Marana, Ariz.

AP

Small-school CBs could hit the big time

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie chats with his cousin, Pro Bowler Antonio Cromartie. Leodis McKelvin talks with another Pro Bowler, former teammate DeMarcus Ware.

The big-time isn't far away for these two cornerbacks from small schools.

Rodgers-Cromartie and McKelvin are the reasons Tennessee State and Troy could be called out early in April's NFL draft along with the likes of Southern Cal and LSU.

Troy, where McKelvin starred, is at least in the Football Bowl Subdivision, formerly known as Division I-A. Tennessee State is in the Football Championship Subdivision (the old Division I-AA).

Rodgers-Cromartie is 6-foot-2 and the reigning Ohio Valley Conference indoor track champion in the 60-yard dash, long jump and high jump. That helps explain why he could be picked before anybody from a slightly better-known football program in the same state, the University of Tennessee.

Tennessee State was the only college to recruit Rodgers-Cromartie after he attended four high schools in four years. He started at a public school in Atlanta. Then his father decided to send him to a private school for 10th grade. But when that institution stopped offering scholarships, he was back to a public school. As a senior, he moved to live with his mother in Bradenton, Fla.

His father kept telling him he had a cousin who played at Florida State, but Rodgers-Cromartie never thought much of it until he got to know Antonio Cromartie in the past year. The second-year San Diego Chargers cornerback led the NFL with 10 interceptions this past season.

Rodgers-Cromartie had another connection to cornerback greatness through his father. One of his dad's friends knew future Hall-of-Famer Darrell Green, who invited Rodgers-Cromartie to work out with him this past summer.

Green taught him how to come out of his break faster. "Basically he changed my whole style of game," Rodgers-Cromartie said Sunday at the NFL scouting combine.

Because he played against lower-level competition, Rodgers-Cromartie knows events like the combine are probably more important for him than other players.

"I kind of feel like I've got to be three out of three: the Senior Bowl, here, then at my Pro Day," he said. "I've just got to go out and put up basically incredible numbers to even get an opportunity to go high in the draft."

NFL teams already seem to know a lot about him. They keep asking about the fact he had one kidney removed as a newborn because it wasn't functioning. Doctors have always cleared him to play sports, Rodgers-Cromartie said, and he's never had any health problems.

What could attract NFL clubs to Rodgers-Cromartie and McKelvin beyond their cornerback abilities is their special teams skills. Rodgers-Cromartie averaged 24.4 yards on kickoff returns. McKelvin averaged 23.2 yards, as well as 17.4 yards on punt returns. McKelvin said he hopes to make the kind of impact on special teams as a rookie that Devin Hester did.

With McKelvin, NFL teams have the opportunity to watch game film and see him against elite competition. Troy faced Arkansas, Florida, Oklahoma State and Georgia this past season.

Scouts also know that players from the school have thrived in the league in recent years.

"We had two this year win the Super Bowl; we had two in the Pro Bowl," McKelvin said proudly.

There's nothing more big-time than what Troy alums did this past season: Defensive end Osi Umenyiora and kicker Lawrence Tynes shined for the world champion New York Giants, while Umenyiora and Ware, the Dallas Cowboys linebacker, were honored as two of the NFC's top players.

Hansbrough leads No. 3 UNC past Wake

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)—Tyler Hansbrough had 29 points to help keep third-ranked North Carolina atop the Atlantic Coast Conference with an 89-73 win over Wake Forest on Sunday night.

Wayne Ellington added 17 points for the Tar Heels, who won their fourth straight in the series and fifth in a row overall. Danny Green added 15 points to help North Carolina (26-2, 11-2) move a half-game ahead of idle Duke.

North Carolina shot 56 percent, including 7-for-14 from 3-point range and 26-for-34 from the foul line.

James Johnson scored 22 points for the Demon Deacons (16-9, 6-6), who were within two points late in the first half before the Tar Heels steadily pulled away. Wake Forest was playing for the first time since last weekend's 86-73 upset of the then-No. 2 Blue Devils, easily the program's biggest victory since Chris Paul left early for the NBA three years ago.

Hansbrough turned in another stellar performance, going 9-for-13 from the field and 11-for-14 from the line. It was his seventh straight game with at least 22 points, a streak that began when the Tar Heels lost point guard Ty Lawson to a sprained left ankle in the early minutes of an overtime win at Florida State on Feb. 3.

Hansbrough is averaging 28 points and 12.1 rebounds during that stretch, helping pad his lead as the conference leader in both categories.

Ellington, meanwhile, went 3-for-5 from 3-point range, marking the fifth straight game he has hit at least three 3s. His biggest came just before halftime, when he took a high inbounds pass from Green and knocked down a contested 3 from the far left corner in front of the Wake Forest bench, giving North Carolina a 50-41 lead at the break.

His third 3 pushed the margin to 59-47 with 16:33 left, a comfortable margin that they maintained the rest of the way. North Carolina led by as many as 21 points in the second half.

North Carolina played its sixth straight game without Lawson. But with the Tar Heels not playing again until Saturday at Boston College, the speedy sophomore could have enough time to heal for a possible return to the lineup.

Wake Forest shot 48 percent, but went just 8-for-17 at the line and was outrebounded 38-24.

Wallace scores 22 as Pistons embarrass Shaq, Suns

PHOENIX (AP)—Rasheed Wallace scored 22 points in 26 minutes to lead six Detroit players in double figures, and the Pistons embarrassed Shaquille O'Neal and the Phoenix Suns 116-86 in the NBA on Sunday.

Chauncey Billups had 14 points and 11 assists, and Antonio McDyess 12 points and 13 rebounds as Detroit easily ended the Suns' 11-game winning streak against Eastern Conference foes.

Phoenix lost to a team from the East for only the third time in 25 tries.

O'Neal, who turns 36 in two weeks, had seven points and 11 rebounds in 34 minutes and was 1-for-8 from the foul line. Amare Stoudemire scored 31 and Leandro Barbosa 18 for Phoenix.

Rockets 110, Bulls 97

At Houston, Tracy McGrady had 24 points and eight assists and Houston extended its winning streak to 12 games.

The Rockets' streak is their longest since their championship season of 1993-94.

They were ahead by seven early in the fourth quarter before debutant Bobby Jackson scored five straight points for Houston, capped by a nifty off-balance layup and the free throw that followed to make it 84-74. The Rockets cruised from there.

Tyrus Thomas led Chicago with 18 points, and Kirk Hinrich had 10 points and 10 assists.

Celtics 112, Trail Blazers 102

At Portland, Oregon, Paul Pierce scored 30 points and Boston rebounded from a slow start to snap a three-game losing streak.

The Celtics trailed by as many as 17 points in the first half, but gained control in the second when Portland struggled without guard Brandon Roy, last season's rookie of the year, who aggravated a right ankle sprain.

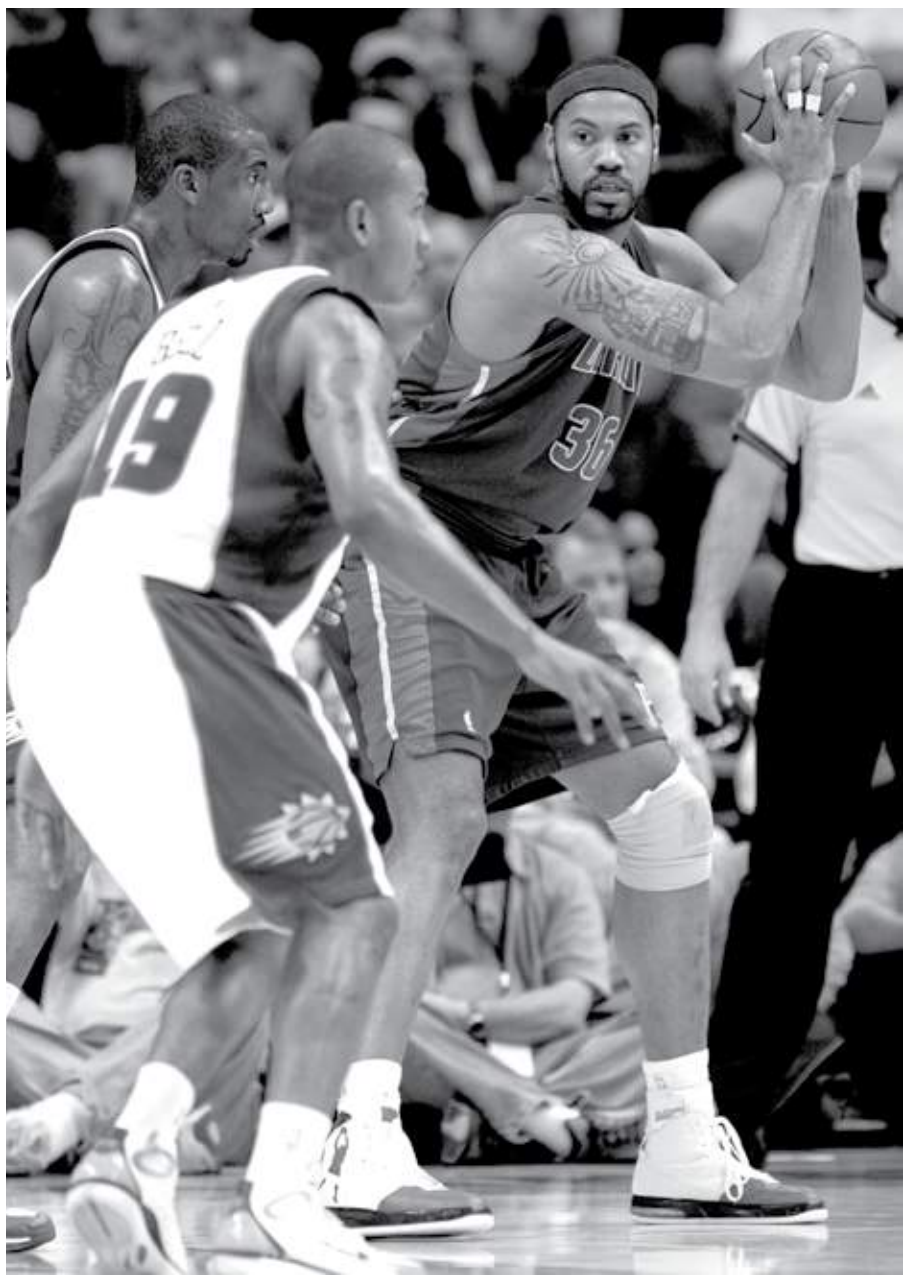
Travis Outlaw led Portland with 24 points.

Cavaliers 109, Grizzlies 89

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 25 points and had 11 assists to lead the home team to an easy win.

Ben Wallace, who started at power forward, scored 12 points, tying his season high, and had 10 rebounds.

Memphis, which has lost 10 of 11, cut the lead to 12 in the fourth period, but the huge deficit was too much to overcome. Hakim Warrick led Memphis with 21 points.



AP

Detroit Pistons' Rasheed Wallace, right, looks to pass as he is guarded by Phoenix Suns' Amare Stoudemire, left, and Raja Bell, during the first quarter of their NBA Basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008, in Phoenix.

Magic 112, Kings 93

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 26 points and 10 rebounds, and Orlando got a huge fourth-quarter effort from its reserves.

Brian Cook and Keyon Dooling combined for 20 points in a 22-8 run to start the final period, which Orlando entered ahead 74-68. No Magic starter scored in the fourth quarter until Howard hit two free throws with 4:28 remaining. By then the game was already in hand.

Ron Artest led Sacramento with 23 points.

Raptors 115, Knicks 92

At Toronto, Andrea Bargnani had 25 points and Chris Bosh added 17 as Toronto rebounded from a loss to New York two days earlier.

Toronto gave coach Sam Mitchell a victory in his 300th game. Mitchell is 137-163 as coach of the Raptors.

Jamal Crawford, who scored 43 points on Friday, finished with 26 in this one for New York.

Mavericks 99, Timberwolves 83

At Minneapolis, Jason Kidd tied his season high with 17 assists in his third game with Dallas and Dirk Nowitzki scored 29 points as the Mavericks sent last-place Minnesota to its seventh loss in eight games.

Al Jefferson led Minnesota with 22 points.

Lakers 111, SuperSonics 91

At Seattle, Kobe Bryant scored 21 points in just 26 minutes, handed out 10 assists, and picked up his first ejection of the season in Los Angeles' season-high eighth straight win.

The Lakers never trailed while extending their longest streak since rolling off 11 straight late in the 2003-04 season—the last time they reached the NBA finals.

Los Angeles wrapped up a stretch playing 12 of 13 on the road with an astonishing 11-2 mark, including wins in the last seven. At 39-17, the Lakers moved ahead of Phoenix for the best record in the West, the second time this season they've led the conference.

Mickael Gelabale led Seattle with a career-high 21 points.

Red Sox give GM Terry Francona 3-year extension

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—After managing the Boston Red Sox to two World Series championships in four seasons, Terry Francona was rewarded Sunday with a three-year contract extension that runs through 2011.

The deal includes club options for 2012 and 2013, which would give him a full decade as manager if the team exercises them.

Francona also received something else: a touching e-mail from general manager Theo Epstein as final details were being worked out Saturday night.

"It was just personal (about) what we've been through since the very beginning," Francona said after Sunday's spring training workout. "It meant a lot to me. He means a lot to me."

Francona guided the Red Sox to World Series sweeps of the St. Louis Cardinals in 2004, their first title in 86 years, and the Colorado Rockies last year. He succeeded the fired Grady Little when he signed a three-year contract on Dec. 4, 2003. Francona later received a two-year extension through the 2008 season.

"The ballclub showed a lot of trust in me, which I don't take lightly," he said.

At 48, he is entering his fifth season as manager, the last of his previous contract. If he serves the full three-year extension, he would have eight seasons on the job. The only Red Sox manager with a longer tenure was Joe Cronin, who held the job from 1935-47.

Francona has come a long way since his four-year tenure as Philadelphia's manager, all losing seasons, from 1997-2000. Epstein studied that and decided that Francona had learned a lot from managing a team with mediocre talent.

"But for that experience in Philly, he wouldn't be the manager that he is today for us," Epstein said. "It's a great day for the organization to know Tito will be around for at least the next four years, if not the next six.

"This demonstrates that he's a core member of the organization. Now he has a contract that reflects that status as well."

Financial details were not released, but Francona moved closer to Joe Torre as baseball's highest-paid manager. Torre signed a $13 million, three-year deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers after spending the past 12 seasons as manager of the New York Yankees.

Despite being the most successful manager over the past four years, Francona, who prefers to deflect praise to his players, hasn't gotten the national recognition that comes with such accomplishments, third baseman Mike Lowell said.

"I think he was underpaid for a couple of years, too," Lowell said. "He's not that outspoken guy where he says what he did, but he has his own way of allowing guys to maximize their talent. I actually view that as a strength."

Francona is considered a players' manager. He handles the pressure of a passionate and demanding fan base well, and has become more comfortable when he has to confront players, Epstein said. But he does it privately and never uses the media to send a message to them, Lowell said.

Francona also stands by players through their on-field struggles.

Second baseman Dustin Pedroia was batting .172 last May 1, but Francona kept using him. Pedroia finished the season with a .317 batting average and won the AL Rookie of the Year award.

"It just shows what kind of guy he is and how he defends his players and sticks by us through any situation," Pedroia said. "He's the only manager I've ever played for up here but he's the only one I'd want to play for."

Epstein and Francona, who let agent Pat Rooney negotiate for him, acknowledged that the talks weren't always smooth.

But early in spring training, owner John Henry and Epstein were optimistic the extension would be completed before the regular season.

"Sometimes when there's success in an organization, there's higher prices that come with it and Tito certainly deserves it. So ownership stepped up," said Epstein, who always felt the agreement would be reached. "It wasn't the easiest thing in the world to get this contract done."

Francona agreed and let Rooney handle the talks rather than be in an adversarial relationship with his bosses.

"I had a couple of nights where I was a little concerned," Francona said.

His .710 winning percentage (22-9) in postseason games is the best in major league history among managers with at least 20 games. He also has the most World Series wins (eight) without a loss.

He led Boston to the 2004 title after trailing 3-0 to the rival New York Yankees in the AL championship series. His basic demeanor never changed during that comeback, catcher Jason Varitek said.

"If you don't change during those tough times," Varitek said, "that's a great example for him to lead by."

Francona's .579 regular-season winning percentage (375-273) is the second-best in club history among managers with at least 350 games.

"I think baseball's in his blood. I think the Red Sox now are in his blood," Epstein said. "As long as the blood keeps coursing through his veins and we can keep him healthy I think that he'll want to be a manager."

As long as Francona keeps winning and treating players with respect, the Red Sox will probably want him.

Clemens could show up at Astros minicamp

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP)—Roger Clemens might show up at Houston Astros spring training this week for a minor league minicamp that includes his son, Koby.

The minicamp begins Monday in Kissimmee and Koby Clemens, a catcher in the Astros' minor league system, is expected to participate. Minor leaguers could check in for the camp on Sunday, but neither Koby nor his father arrived before the minor league clubhouse closed at 5 p.m.

Roger Clemens has come to the spring camp with his son the past few seasons. He has a personal services contract with the Astros that will kick in when he officially retires.

Houston manager Cecil Cooper said he was expecting the seven-time Cy Young Award winner to attend the camp, but said he didn't know when he might arrive. Neither general manager Ed Wade nor assistant GM Ricky Bennett had any indication when Clemens would arrive or if he'd show up at all.

"I really don't know Roger's situation," Wade said.

Clemens threw batting practice at the Astros' weeklong minicamp in Houston that preceded spring training. Two weeks later, on Feb. 13, he testified before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and again denied allegations by former trainer Brian McNamee that he used steroids or human growth hormone.

Realtors move within win of title

MANILA, Philippines—This one looked easy for Sta. Lucia in the second half.

The Realtors rebounded from a so-so start and then wore down a crippled Purefoods crew Sunday night, scoring an 88-76 decision to take a 3-2 series lead in the Smart PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City.

Sta. Lucia erased an 11-point second quarter deficit and then zoomed ahead by 18 early in the fourth period before holding off a mild uprising by the Giants to move to within a win of its first all-Filipino title in franchise history.

The normally brash Sta. Lucia coach Boyet Fernandez, however, held off any predictions.

"No comment," Fernandez said, when asked if he would again declare the series over, having a twice-to-beat advantage over the Giants. Fernandez pulled off the stunt after taking a similar 3-2 lead over Alaska in the semifinal series.

The Realtors seemed to cruise in each of their three wins in this series, but this one seemed the easiest by far considering Purefoods checked into the match giving the Realtors a freebie: Top scorer James Yap missed the game to serve out a suspension.

Sta. Lucia 88 – Williams 20, Espino 15, Omolon 14, Aquino 12, Mendoza 9, Reyes 8, Miranda 6, Coronel 2, Gonzales 2.

Purefoods 76 – Raymundo 20, Lanete 10, Castillo 9, Pingris 8, Yap 8, Evangelista 6, Adducul 5, Salvador 4, Sanz 3, Simon 3, Larong 0, Yee 0.

Quarters: 15-19, 37-39, 62-50, 88-76. ***(PDI)***

BAXTER

From Page 28

off their campaign with a 21-10 demolition of Bruce Berline and Tyce Mister.

They had their first real test in the 2008 edition of Micronesia's longest-running beach volleyball event when they were pushed to the limit by the team of Phil Dalhausser and Chris Nelson. Baxter and Steele edged Dalhausser and Nelson, 25-24.

The match went into a number of ties and several lead changes. The game was still pegged at 24-all when Baxter ended the match with a carefully placed kill at the back line of their opponents' court.

Baxter and Steele earned a spot in the semifinals after a 23-21 win over Hamaguchi and Hatabe then got the first finals spot after a 21-14 triumph over Matsumoto and Fujimatsu, who dropped to the losers' bracket.

In the losers' bracket, Hamaguchi and Hatabe earned the right to face Matsumoto and Fujimatsu after handing Dalhausser and Nelson a 15-13 defeat.

Matsumoto and Fujimatsu earned another crack at Baxter and Steele in the finals when they scored a 17-15 decision over Hamaguchi and Hatabe in their semifinal match.

Baxter and Steele won the $3,800 top purse including an all-expenses paid trip back to next year's Marianas Cup. They also won a free stay at PIC through the duration of the contest.

Matsumoto and Fujimatsu bagged the $1,900 second prize, while Hamaguchi and Hatabe went home with $950. Dalhausser and Nelson pocketed $480, while the teams of Saki Naivana and Dave of Guam and Hata and Rod won $150 each.

In the women's division, Yoko Miki and Chie Iwana foiled the upset bid of Federica Tonon and Dawn Penebaker to claim the title and the $3,600 top prize.

Miki and Iwana enjoyed a twice-to-beat advantage for going undefeated in the entire tournament. Tonon and Penebaker defeated them in Game 1, 22-20, to force a rubber.

In the second game, the Japanese duo dived and scrambled for every ball in order to return and thwart the consistent attacks made by Tonon and Penebaker inside the court to pull off a 15-12 triumph.

Aside from the $3,600 cash prize, Miki and Iwana also won an all-expenses paid trip and room at PIC for their title defense next year, while Tonon and Penebaker will return to Hawaii $1,800 richer.

Jennifer Snyder and Mili Saiki earned $900 for placing third, while Jenell Koester and Kelley Butcher won $400. The duos of Remi and Ayami and Aubrey and Lisa went home with $100 each.

PATRIOTS

From Page 28

pitching in the last three innings. Despite walking Leon Guerrero, with one out in the bottom of the fourth, the Lions' third baseman was tagged out on a 2-6 putout play when Jun Rabauliman made the throw to shortstop Jerry Rabauliman.

Aguon, who went 1-for-3 with two runs and a double, ended the game when he struck out Justin Santos.

Jeremy Rabauliman went 3-for-3 with an inside-the-park home run, a double, and a triple to go with his three runs and two RBIs. Christian Mizer went 2-for-3 with a double, a triple, two runs, and two RBIs.

Ol'Aces 10, Twins 0

Jeremy Lizama pitched four two-hit innings to help the Ol'Aces blank the Twins, 10-0.

Lizama completed the shutout in the bottom of the fourth when he struck out M.J. Sakisat and Roberty Tudela then forced Tony Camacho to ground out to second.

Ol'Aces used a six-run second inning scoring rally as enough cushion to score their third straight win and join the defending champion Patriots on top of the standings.

Hustlers I 6, Braves 2

Adelbert Lizama went 2-for-3 with one triple and scored two runs as Hustlers I won its second straight game.

It was a pitching contest with the duo of A.J. Lizama and Cody Lizama winning their duel against the pair of Nick Torres Jr. and Roy Tudela.

A.J. Lizama pitched 4.2 innings, allowing the Braves to two earned runs on five hits, while striking out 11 batters and walking three more. Kaipat pitched 1.1 innings in relief giving up no runs on two hits with three strikeouts and one walk.

McDonald's 13, Pirates 1

Ian Rogolifoi had a no-relief job on the mound to help McDonald's end its two-game slump scoring a 13-1 triumph over the still winless Pirates.

After Kaisei Toda, who walked, scored on an error by McDonald's catcher Marino Ngeskebei Rogolifoi blanked the Pirates all throughout the match.

Rogloifoi allowed the Pirates to five hits in four scoreless innings, while striking out seven batters and walking five more. He also went 2-for-4 with two runs and a double.

Jarred Rabauliman went 2-for-2 with four runs, three RBIs, and a three-run inside-the-park home run in the top of the fifth inning. Ngeskebei went 2-for-3 with two runs, a double, three RBI, and a three-run inside-the-park home run in the third inning.

The Dragons and Bank of Saipan Red Sox, two teams that had lackluster seasons last year, downed their respective foes to keep abreast with the leaders last Saturday.

The Dragons burned Hustlers II, 11-6, while the Red Sox cooled down the Suns, 26-1, for their second straight win and remain one game behind the league-leading Patriots and Ol'Aces' 3-0 records.

Results of other games on Saturday had the PTI Dolphins escaping with an 8-6 decision over the Athletics, while the Survivors slammed Dare JPO's, 19-3.

SCORING

From Page 28

Marlon Bamba continued to be a double-double machine in the loss, as the Hafadai Beach Hotel center bulldozed his way to 37 points, on top of 11 rebounds, three blocked shots, and two steals.

It was not enough though to prevent Hafadai from falling to a 3-4 win-loss mark.

In the second game, high-flyer Darwin Barbo nearly equaled Esdrelon's 47 points by logging in 45 markers in Aqua Resort Club's 108-93 come-from-behind win against Saipan World Resort.

The defending champions found themselves trailing by double digits in the first three quarters before scrambling for the win in the payoff period, led by the 19 fourth-quarter points of Barbo.

Barbo was named Chivas Life Player of the Game after also hauling down 14 boards. The win was the sixth and eight tries for Aqua Resort, while it was the sixth loss in eight outings for World Resort, which was paced by the 29 of Jerryfel Mangahis.

In the final match of the evening's tripleheader, Rotary veteran Jason Bahillo erupted for 34 points but it was all for naught as Aquarius Beach Tower yielded an 89-108 loss to Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Abaya Magno of Hyatt Regency was named Chivas Life Player of the Game after recording 10 rebounds and four assists to along with his eight points. The win hiked Hyatt Regency's record to 5-3, while the loss was the seventh in as many games for Aquarius.

Sunday's games were the first in two weeks for the HANMI Cup, which cancelled its season to allow players and officials to mourn the death of Rick Alegre, former CNMI national player and captain of Aqua Resort.

The 2007-2008 season of the HANMI Cup is sponsored by Titans Chivas Life, Pacific Telecom, Inc., Coca-Cola Bottlers Micronesia, and Western Sales Trading Company.

First Game

Fiesta-Grand 120 – Esdrelon 47, Sanciangco 34, Noel 9, Opone 9, Manglona 8, Dela Torre 7, Ong 7.

Hafadai Beach Hotel 86 – Bamba 37, Iguel 25, Olaitaman 10, Guinto 6, Baculod 2, Andal 2, Nedlic 2.

Scoring by quarters: 38-31, 61-53, 91-77, 120-86.

Referees: Dado Vistal and Connie Camacho.

Second Game

Aqua Resort Club 108 – Barbo 45, Gapor 13, Johannes 13, Casabuena 11, Achas 10, Aquino 8, Takahashi 4, Calvo 2, Torres 2.

Saipan World Resort 93 – Mangahis 29, Vinas 25, Wabinga 13, Navarro 8, Hamoy 8, Redita 4, Palma 2, Ferrer 2, Lanzo.

Scoring by quarters: 12-22, 30-46, 60-71, 108-93.

Referees: Jess Pabula and Gilbert Espinosa.

Third Game

Hyatt Regency Saipan 108 – Tenorio 18, Umali 15, Mendoza 14, Arreza 13, Basila 12, Aquino 10, Magno 8, Dillay 8, Villamor 4, Abaya 4, Yamomoto 2.

Aquarius Beach Tower 89 – Bahillo 34, Barbo 18, Cordero 13, Trajano 11, Sarmiento 7, Rapanut 4, Sese 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-13, 48-35, 79-58, 108-89.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Manny Sitchon.

JETS

From Page 28

lone run when Chris Ayuyu, who had a triple, scored on an Ofero Taitano single in the bottom of the seventh.

On Saturday, the Fielders tamed Lion Kings, 28-1, in its debut while handing their opponents their second straight loss.

The Fielders' batters had a field day tallying 26 hits against the pitching duo of A.J. Hocog and Joseph Lizama.

Tom Agulto and Ben Flores each homered for the Fielders. Agulot had a solo home run in the second, while Flores had a three-run round-tripper that highlighted their teams' 11-run third inning rally.

BIG LEAGUE
Jets 35, Dolphins 7

The Jets made it 3-for-3 in the Big League by completing a sweep following a 35-7 crushing of the PTI Dolphins on Sunday.

Jesus Iguel had two home runs in the game, a two-run shot in the third inning and a grand slam that highlighted an 18-run sixth inning barrage.

Ben Leon Guerrero also homered for the Jets when he had a solo shot in the fifth.

On Saturday, the Falcons swooped down to a 13-5 triumph over the Aztecs. The Aztecs' loss foiled Darren Pua's lead-off home run in the first inning.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	42	12	.778	_
Toronto	30	24	.556	12
New Jersey	25	31	.446	18
Philadelphia	25	32	.439	18 1/2
New York	17	39	.304	26

Southeast Division

Orlando	36	22	.621	_
Washington	26	29	.473	8 1/2
Atlanta	22	31	.415	11 1/2
Charlotte	19	37	.339	16
Miami	9	44	.170	24 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	41	15	.732	_
Cleveland	32	24	.571	9
Chicago	22	33	.400	18 1/2
Indiana	22	34	.393	19
Milwaukee	21	35	.375	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	37	17	.685	_
San Antonio	37	17	.685	_
Dallas	37	19	.661	1
Houston	36	20	.643	2
Memphis	14	42	.250	24

Northwest Division

Utah	36	20	.643	_
Denver	33	22	.600	2 1/2
Portland	29	27	.518	7
Seattle	15	40	.273	20 1/2
Minnesota	11	43	.204	24

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	39	17	.696	_
Phoenix	38	18	.679	1
Golden State	33	22	.600	5 1/2
Sacramento	26	29	.473	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	19	34	.358	18 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 116, Phoenix 86
Orlando 112, Sacramento 93
Boston 112, Portland 102
Toronto 115, New York 92
Cleveland 109, Memphis 89
Dallas 99, Minnesota 83
Houston 110, Chicago 97
L.A. Lakers 111, Seattle 91

MATCH PLAY AT A GLANCE

MARANA, Arizona (AP)–A brief look on Sunday at the Accenture Match Play Championship:

Championship match: Tiger Woods def. Stewart Cink, 8 and 7.
Consolation: Henrik Stenson def. Justin Leonard, 3 and 2.
Career charts: Woods has 63 career victories, moving past Arnold Palmer on the U.S. PGA Tour list.
World beater: Woods is 15-of-26 in the World Golf Championships, earning $19.88 million (13.4 million euros).
Streaking: Woods has won four straight U.S. PGA Tour events. Of the eight times someone has won at least four straight, Woods has done it on three occasions.
Key statistic: Woods made 14 birdies in 29 holes of the final match.
Noteworthy: Woods did not trail over his final 62 holes of the tournament.

U.S. PGA TOUR WINNERS

MARANA, Arizona (AP)–Leading all-time U.S. PGA Tour winners:

82	Sam Snead
73	Jack Nicklaus
64	Ben Hogan
63	Tiger Woods
62	Arnold Palmer
52	Byron Nelson
51	Billy Casper
45	Walter Hagen
40	Cary Middlecoff
39	Gene Sarazen
39	Tom Watson

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Little League Standings

Major League

Patriots	3	0
Ol'Aces	3	0
Dragons	2	0
Red Sox	2	0
Survivors	2	0
Hustlers I	2	1
Twins	2	1
Athletics	1	1
Dolphins	1	1
Braves	1	2
McDonald's	1	2
Dare JPO's	0	2
Hustlers II	0	2
Suns	0	2
Lions	0	3
Pirates	0	3

Junior League

Jets	2	0
Ol'Aces	1	1
Lion Hearts	1	1
Dolphins	0	1
Fielders	0	1

Senior League

Jets	3	0
Fielders	1	0
Dolphins	1	2
D9ers	0	1
Liong King	0	2

Big League

Jets	2	0
Hustlers	1	0
Falcons	1	1
Aztecs	0	1
Dolphins	0	2

HANMI Cup Standings

Fiesta-Grand Hotel	7	1
Aqua Resort Club	6	2
Hyatt Regency Saipan	5	3
Pacific Islands Club	4	2
Hafadai Beach Hotel	3	4
Saipan World Resort	2	6
Aquarius Beach Tower	0	7

Local tankers shine in Heptathlon

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Swimmers from host Saipan Swim Club and the fledgling Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan had the opportunity to pit their skills against swimmers from Japan, Palau, and Marshall Islands earlier this month during the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet.

Two local swimmers—Tsunami Saipan's Rezne Wong and SSC's Abigail Martinsen—prevented an International Buccaneers sweep of the events by winning their respective age groups.

Wong had 655 points to win the boys' 15-and-over age group, while Martinsen had 320 points to take home first place in the girls' 9-10 division. Teammate Victoria Chentsova came away with 225 points to come in second.

Other local tankers that showed their mettle by finishing in the Top 2 of the virtual meet were SSC's Sarah Johnson and Grace Kimball and Tsunami Saipan's Marystar Welch.

Johnson came in second in the girls' 15-and-over age group by managing 520 points. Kimball was runner-up in the girls' 11-12 age group with 440 points, while Welch had 425 points to finish No. 2 in the girls' 13-14 division.

The Tokyo-based Buccaneers swim team had 11 of its swimmers either win or finish runner-up in the five age groups for boys and girls.

The results of Feb. 1 and 2 event were scored based on a sliding scale from the USA Swimming Age-Group Motivational Times List, which means the faster your time, the greater the number of points, from 0 to 100.

It has been dubbed Heptathlon Meet because it incorporates 10 events, namely 100m breaststroke, 100m backstroke, 100m freestyle, 400m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 200m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, 50m backstroke, 50m freestyle, and 100 butterfly.

DAN KIMBALL
SSC's Maxi Braig swims in the freestyle event of the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet held last Feb. 1 and 2.

HIRO KIMURA
Tsunami Saipan's Shin Kimura competes in the 400m freestyle of the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet held last Feb. 1 and 2 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

DAN KIMBALL
Cooper Graf is all smiles after winning an event in the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet held last Feb. 1 and 2.

HIRO KIMURA
Daisuke Fitial in action in the breaststroke competition in the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet held last Feb. 1 and 2.

DAN KIMBALL
Emma Martinsen toys with the timer during a lull in the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet held last Feb. 1 and 2.

DAN KIMBALL
SSC's Junior Pamaran swim in the butterfly events of the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet held last Feb. 1 and 2.

8. HIRO KIMURA
The Tsunami Saipan team cheer for their teammates in the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet held last Feb. 1 and 2.

DAN KIMBALL
Saipan Swim Club's Sarah Johnson smiles after her swim in the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet held last Feb. 1 and 2.

Local tankers shine in Heptathlon

Swimmers from host Saipan Swim Club and the fledgling Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan had the opportunity to pit their skills against swimmers from Japan, Palau, and Marshall Islands earlier this month during the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Meet.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tiger wins Match Play for world sweep

Not even the most unpredictable tournament in golf could keep Tiger Woods from an inevitable victory. There seems to be no stopping him.

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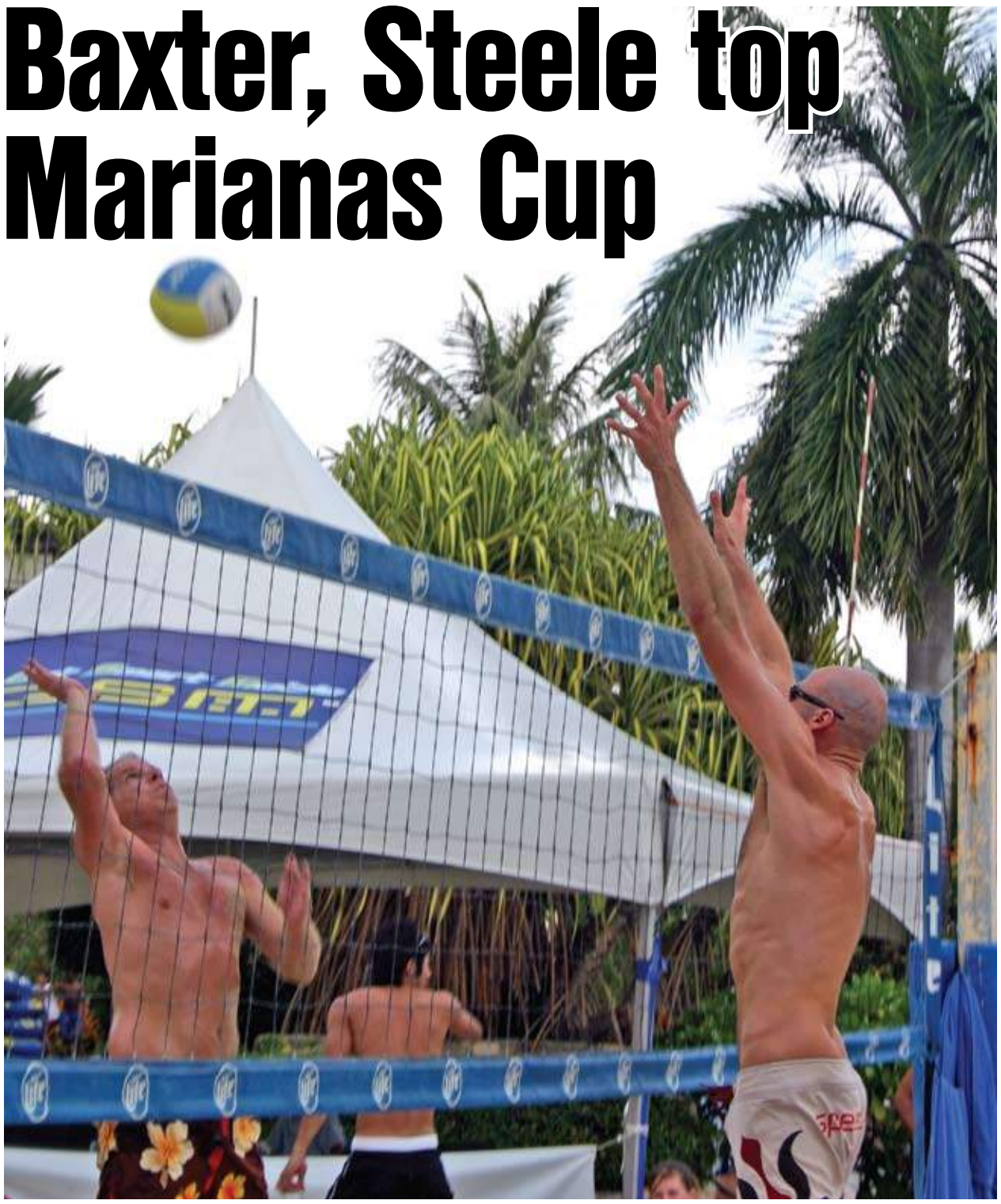
Baxter, Steele top Marianas Cup



JON PEREZ

Phil Dalhausser, right, prepares to block a Randy Steele spike in the double-elimination round phase of the 16th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Paul Baxter and Randy Steele earned a year's worth of bragging rights by topping the men's division of the 16th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival held over the weekend at Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

Baxter and Steele completed their title bid by sweeping their last five games in Sunday's final round, including a dominating 21-13 win over deposed champions Daisuke Matsumoto and Shigekazu Fujimatsu in the championship match.

The Baxter and Steele tandem, champions in the 2004 edition, breezed through the winners' bracket, starting

See BAXTER on Page 26

Patriots, Ol'Aces lead way in Majors

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

This early, the defending champion SaipanCell Patriots and Ol'Aces are leading the way in the Majors after Sunday's results of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan field.

The Patriots and Ol'Aces subdued their respective foes to claim their third straight win. The win was also the 42nd straight for the Patriots since the 2006 season when they won 15 consecutive regular season contests.

The Patriots, who are bidding for their third straight undefeated season, scored an 11-1 win over the Kagman Lions on Sunday.

Alen Aguon pitched a no-relief game that was shortened by the 10-run mercy rule. He allowed the Lions to one earned run on no hits with nine strikeouts and five walks.

Aguon gave up the Lions' lone run when he walked lead-off batter Giovanni Taitingfong, who later scored on a bases-loaded walk. Aguon walked Michael Muna then forced Keene Deleon Guerrero to an infield fly for the first out.

Aguon loaded up the bases when he walked Jordan Manglona then allowed Taitingfong to score when he again walked Jesse Santos. He settled in after that and struck out Vincent Leon Guerrero and Justin Santos to end the inning.

He continued with his excellent

See PATRIOTS on Page 26

JON PEREZ

The Braves' Ricky Joe Rengiil watches the direction of his base hit in their game against Hustlers I in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League on Sunday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Scoring splurge as HANMI Cup resumes

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2007-2008 HANMI Cup-Inter-Hotel Basketball League resumed last Sunday with five scoring outbursts of 30 or more points in all three games at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Fiesta-Grand's dynamic guard Elmer Esdrelon started the explosive tripleheader by firing 47 points in the team's 120-86 whipping of Hafadai Beach Hotel in the opener.

As if Esdrelon's shooting stroke wasn't good enough, teammate and runaway rookie of the year Ryan Sanciangco also added 34 points in Fiesta-Grand's seventh win in eight games.

For his exploits, Esdrelon was named Chivas Life Player of the Game. Aside from his 47 points he also wound up with 13 rebounds, four assists, and the same number of steals.

See SCORING on Page 26

JON PEREZ

Elmer Esdrelon, seen here in a file photo, had 47 points, 13 rebounds, four assists, and the same number of steals in Fiesta-Grand's 120-86 whipping of Hafadai Beach Hotel in the resumption of the 2007-2008 HANMI Cup-Inter-Hotel Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Jets outlast Ol'Aces in Junior League

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Jets outlasted Ol'Aces for its second straight win in a virtual pitching duel in the Junior League division last Saturday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Harry Nakamura held Ol'Aces scoreless for four straight innings before giving up a single to Lamarc Iguel, with two outs, and later scored on an A.J. Taitano single.

Nakamura allowed Ol'Aces to three hits with five strikeouts and one walk.

The Jets managed to score two runs against Iguel when Keoni Lizama led off with a triple and later scored on shortstop Kevin Yamada's error.

Joe Palacios, with no outs, singled while McGarette Duenas struck out. Palacios later scored on a Justsin Kintol single. Anthony Salas, who walked, had the chance to score another run but was left stranded when Ike Agulto and Nakamura grounded out.

In the other Junior League match over the weekend, the Kagman Lion Hearts pulled off a 10-5 decision against the Fielders on Sunday.

SENIOR LEAGUE
Jets 9, Dolphins 1

The Jets' also continued with their impressive start in the Senior League after a 9-1 triumph over the PTI Dolphins on Sunday.

The win was the third in as many games for the Jets, while foiling the Dolphins' debut.

Josh Jones and Dave Camacho shared the pitching duties for the Jets with the former staying on the mound for 5.3 scoreless innings, limiting the Dolphins to five hits on no runs with eight strikeouts and four walks.

Camacho pitched 1.1 innings in relief and gave up the Dolphins'

See JETS on Page 26